

Scottish devolution 'guillotine' is carried by 26 votes

The Government had an unexpectedly high majority of 26 in last night's Commons vote for a "guillotine" measure limiting debate on the Scottish devolution Bill. Voting was 313 to 287. Nine

Labour MPs joined Conservatives to vote in the "Noes" lobby. Later voting on a guillotine for the Welsh devolution Bill produced a government majority of 27. Voting was 314 to 287.

Wales vote through by 27

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

The Government last night approved the Commons devolution "guillotine" motion by 26 for the Scottish Bill and 27 for the Welsh Bill.

The votes, which limit debate for the next stages of the Bill and thus accelerate their programme towards devolution, were 313 to 287 for the Scottish measure and 314 to 287 for the Welsh Bill.

If the House of Lords does not delay, a bill "if" the Government hopes to hold referendums next autumn in both Scotland and Wales and assuming popular acclaim, hold elections in March 1979, to the 130-member Scottish assembly and the Welsh assembly of about 70 members.

As predicted, the Labour revolt collapsed, although far more comprehensively than anyone expected. Only nine MPs defied the government whip and voted with the Opposition in the Scotland Bill. Only seven Labour MPs abstained.

That compared with 22 Labour MPs opposing and 21 abstentions when the Government lost the guillotine vote on February 23 on the combined devolution Bill.

Five outside the government whip had expected the Labour rebellion to dwindle to last night's rump. Clearly many Labour MPs from the North who hated the Scotland Bill took refuge in the argument that there was little point in derailing the Government now when they could, as some announced, campaign against the referendum on devolution.

The two Scottish Labour Party MPs, normally anti-Government rebels, of course also voted for devolution; so did two Irish members.

The only remnant of Conservative commitment to the Government's form of devolution in Scotland were two abstainers, Mr David Knott (Leek), and Mr Alastair Buchanan-Smith (Angus North and Mearns).

Three-hour Commons debate preceding the Scottish vote had heard some rather rhetorical and some dire warnings about wrecking the United Kingdom through devolution to separate assemblies.

But, clearly, few minds were swayed against the Government. Prime Minister returned from a visit to Rolls-Royce at Derby in time for the division, and he beamed at the unexpected majority.

His whips huddled themselves. There were times during the past week when some of them became anxious; there is little

Parliamentary report, page 7

Israel looks forward to Sadat visit

From Moshe Brillant
Tel Aviv, Nov 16

In spite of an unexplained hitch in arranging a formal invitation to President Sadat, Israel

was preparing for a visit by the Egyptian leader next week or the week after.

American sources were coy about why the message transmuted last night through the American embassies in Tel Aviv and Cairo before not reach President Sadat before he left for Damascus.

A message from President Sadat reached Israel today but it was addressed to the sponsor of an international symposium on peace in the Middle East, and retransmitted from Cyprus, called on the symptoms to focus on "the living reality of the Palestinian people and their inalienable right to statehood".

Mr Deyan, the Foreign Minister, said today it was unlikely that negotiations would be initiated during the proposed visit. President Sadat had said he would not discuss a separate peace between Egypt and Israel.

He was not authorized to negotiate on behalf of the other Arab countries.

One Diplomatic Correspondent writes: Mr Begum will arrive in London on Sunday and go directly to Chequers for talks with Mr Callaghan.

The visit is expected to go ahead as planned, according to official sources, because it will not conflict with President Sadat's proposed visit to Jerusalem.

Sadat reassurance, page 5

Former Waffen-SS officers ordered out

By Stewart Tendler

in a press conference in London today to promote Waffen-SS: A History, £1.15. Pictures.

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The book has been published in West Germany by a publishing house called Münch and distributed in the United Kingdom by Münch (UK) Ltd, run from a Brighton address by Mr Patrick Hinchy. A woman there said yesterday that it also sold other books, including reproductions of posters from the Third Reich, and records of German marching songs.

Lieutenant-Colonel Meyer and a staff officer in a Panzer division, and Colonel Walter Harzer, commander of the 9th SS "Hohenstaufen" division, arrived in Britain yesterday morning. A third, unnamed officer, formerly Hitler's personal adjutant, was due to join them.

The Home Office stated last night that the visit of the three men was "against public policy".

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HOME NEWS

Cumbria wants to transfer its 'base' to Manchester

From John Charlton

Cumbria, geographically one of the largest counties in England, wants to leave the Government's Northern Region, which has its head office in Newcastle upon Tyne, and "rejoin" the North-west Region, based on Manchester.

Cumbria was created in 1974, one of the old Cumbrian and parts of Lancashire. Many of its 470,000 population have felt themselves in an untenable position since local government reorganization which it is establishing. It will still belong to the North-west Industrial Development Association, at £5,000 a year.

The county council, also decided against joining a new pressure group called the Northern Counties Association, which is being formed to promote new industry and counter the disadvantages of devolution and which has support from Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and Durham.

Yesterday the Conservative-controlled county council decided by a majority to try once more to have the county reorganized as an independent region or subregion for planning and administration.

An attempt to obtain independent subregional status failed two years ago. If the new move fails, the county council intends to tell the Government that it wants to be part of the North-west Region in future.

The move may have considerable significance for the Government, during forthcoming discussions on proposed debates on devolution and in any future moves to create elected regional governments in England. Much of the opposition to the last Scottish Devolution Bill came from Northern MPs who fear government resources may be channelled to Scotland. Any similar realignment of county allegiances might affect MPs' voting.

Cumbria's resolutions yesterday included a reaffirmation of opposition to elected regional government in the preexisting county council. The county council also decided not to renew its £27,300 annual subscription to the North of England Development

ment Council from next March. The council, jointly financed by a £250,000-a-year government contribution and subscriptions from Cumbria, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear, Durham and Cleveland, is based in Newcastle, with Lord Glenamara, formerly Mr Edward Short, as chairman.

Lord Glenamara recently appealed to Cumbria to think again about leaving. Cumbria intends to put the money saved towards financing its own industrial promotion department, which it is establishing. It will still belong to the North-west Industrial Development Association, at £5,000 a year.

The county council, also decided against joining a new pressure group called the Northern Counties Association, which is being formed to promote new industry and counter the disadvantages of devolution and which has support from Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and Durham.

Yesterday's decision followed the submission to the county council of a paper by Mr Peter Woodward, chairman of the county council, in which he said the county should go North-west because people in the North-east needed to regard their county as an appendage rather than an integral part of their region.

Labour members opposed the moves. Councillor Hugh Little, their leader, said they amounted to Cumbria's "turning its back" on the Northern Region.

The decisions may seriously affect the future of the North of England Development Council. Dissatisfaction has been voiced by Cleveland and Durham, which pay £47,000 and £33,000 a year respectively into the total expenditure budget of about £45,000.

In government circles no serious difficulties are foreseen in transferring Cumbria to the North-west Region. But the county's chances of being made an independent region are regarded as slight because of the costs in setting up regional offices of government departments of the North of England Development.

Woman got into deep freezer to die

Mrs Joyce Oxenham, became so depressed that she got into her deep freezer to die so that her body would not be found after taking 100 aspirins. It was stated at an inquest at Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, yesterday.

Mrs Oxenham, aged 60, left a note to her husband saying she had gone to visit a friend. It was not until six or eight hours after she died that the police opened the flat by 3ft freezer and found her inside. The contents of the freezer had been removed and stocked dead.

It was evident that she had climbed into the freezer in the garden shed to avoid the possibility of being found before the tablets killed her.

The husband, Mr Gerald Oxenham, aged 65, a coach painter, of Rosewarne Caravan Park, Cambridge, had his wife been seriously depressed for two or three years.

Appeal to MPs to stop fish shop closures

By Hugh Clayton

Fish merchants and trawlermen supported an appeal to MPs yesterday to save fish-and-chip and fishmongers' shops, two of the fastest declining sections of the food trade.

The Confederation of Fish Caterers' Associations, which organized a combined industry lobby at the House of Commons, said the number of fish-and-chip shops had fallen from 15,000 to 11,000 in 12 years.

Fish traders feel especially vulnerable because they are in a period of haphazard supplies between the ending of fishing regimes used before membership of the EEC and the creation of a coherent policy by the Community.

Mr Peter Worthington, secretary of the National Federation of Fish Friers, said that when frozen food companies had overcome technical obstacles to the use of big whirling in such foods as fish fingers more traditional species would be released for friers.

Fee increases 'threaten sandwich courses'

By Our Education Correspondent

The fact that students on sandwich courses must now pay full tuition fees to cover periods spent away from university after taking 100 aspirins. It was stated at an inquest at Cambridge, Cambridgeshire, yesterday.

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Stolen cash was found in police car after raid

The proceeds of a £12,000 building society robbery were found under the front seat of a police car, Judge Grant was told at the General Criminal Court yesterday. The money remained there for two days, as, unknowingly, the police had picked up the two young men responsible for the raid after they had crashed their motor cycle, Mr Richard Germann, for the prosecution, said.

The men were taken to Whetstone police station, London, in the police car and released after being charged with motoring offences. A photograph was produced in court showing where the cash, containing £12,193 in cash and cheques, was found under the driver's seat. Mr Germann said the police

US to consider reciprocal health plan with Britain

Arrangements under which British visitors to the United States might receive medical treatment and American visitors similar help here are to be considered by the United States Health, Education and Welfare Department.

Mr Joseph Califano, secretary of the department, said in London yesterday that the point had been raised with him

Novelist sees a dark future for Britain

Britain's future is not going to be terrible, just terribly dull. Getting more money, not more freedom or more goods, will be the big preoccupation. Money will have to be spent rapidly before it is devalued; to save it will be impossible, and probably immoral.

The picture of the future is painted by Anthony Burgess, the novelist, in today's New Society. He and four other writers have taken part in a joint exercise in prophecy.

Mr Burgess's gloom is unfuture. "Tuoland" is dominated by unions dedicated to a collectivist philosophy and opposed to work or enjoyment.

"The pattern is already here.

The mixture: one level spoonful of cockroach

By John Roper

When a London mother poured the third dose from a bottle of medicine for her sick son a cockroach dropped into the spoon and she saw other cockroaches in the bottle.

Although he had not dispensed it, she took the bottle to her local chemist, who advised her to take her complaint to Camden Environmental Health Department.

The bottle was passed to a food inspector, but he told her that as she had obtained the medicine on prescription and no money had been paid he was unable to deal with the complaint.

The matter was passed to the pharmaceutical service committee of the Camden and Islington Family Practitioner Committee.

The committee's report, published yesterday, does not explain how the cockroaches got into the bottle of mixture, which the report says, "has a somewhat repellent smell".

If the mother had left bottles unstoppered, probably made for her by a bottle of sweet syrup Capers ordered on the same prescription, the committee

director of a painting and marketing company he started himself in 1971, and first went into business when he joined his family's motor business in 1962.

Chairman of the 1970-71 Conservative by-elections in Bournemouth, Mr Joseph Mathew, has the main task of unmasking the imitators of the Conservative by-election successes during the present Government; the average swing towards them has been 12.1 per cent and in Tory-held seats 9 per cent.

That will be particularly difficult as recent opinion polls have shown an erosion of the Conservatives' lead and the two parties are said to be neck and neck. At the same time

the Conservative camp is trying to find out who the imitators will be getting supporters out to vote in strong numbers during a by-election that they expect the party to win anyway.

Mr Atkinson has nothing but contempt for the Liberals, who came second in the general election, because, he says, they are propping up a Labour Government that is damaging Britain's prospects for recovery. He says the Liberal vote is falling away, although the Liberal candidate, Mr Donald Mathew, aged 53, said yesterday that his party's cause would have to be a remarkable accident, will not find a vulnerable target. He is managing

so that there can be a smooth transfer.

Left-wing Labour MPs who

will be scrutinizing the register of MP's interests when Mr Atkinson returns to Westminster after polling day on November 26, baring what would have to be a remarkable accident, will not find a vulnerable target. He is managing

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HOME NEWS

Soho cinemas win right to show X films after judge condemns 'denial of natural justice'

A judge yesterday gave two cinemas in Soho, London, permission to continue showing X certificate films. He said that, while the court sympathized with the idea that the area had been degraded by an invasion of the sex industry, there had been a denial of natural justice in the way the cinemas had been granted or refused licences.

Judge Campbell, QC, chairman of the Inner London Appeals Committee, was giving a reserved judgment on the appeal of the owners of the Soho and Pigalle cinemas against the refusal of the Greater London Council to renew their licences. He said the two cinemas could continue in business at least until September 30, 1978.

The judge criticized the council, which has been con-

ducting a "clean up Soho" campaign, for the way licence applications were dealt with, at the most, by two members of the council's public services and safety committee. "I described the council's powers earlier as draconian, and I see no reason to rescind from that description," the judge said.

"We were told that the chairman or vice-chairman exercises the power on behalf of the committee. If that is so, it is a delegation of power that is not authorized by statute or by common law and it follows that any decisions made by the chairman or vice-chairman to grant or refuse are made unlawfully and ultra vires and accordingly have no validity."

It was impossible to say that the refusal to grant licences to the two cinemas were decisions of the committee. In the

case of new cinemas requiring new licences, proper consideration by the full committee was well merited. "We hold that is what the law requires."

Concluding, the judge said: "The Conservative Party has expressed the view that there are in Soho too many cinemas showing X certificate films and it would be desirable to reduce that number."

The court accepted that declared policy and fully understood and had sympathy with the idea that the area had been degraded by an invasion of the sex industry. But the court was not concerned with sex shops, only with cinemas showing X certificate films.

It had been admitted by the GLC that the two cinemas concerned had a comparatively good record and their front-of-house displays were less objec-

tional than those outside other cinemas.

The two cinemas between them employed about seven people. Given the council's declared policy, it seemed unlikely that any purchaser would have confidence in getting a licence and that property would be virtually unsaleable.

"Capital investments would be lost and 70 people would lose their employment," the judge said. The appellants had been given no opportunity by the council to refuse or explain and, most important, no opportunity to be heard.

"There was, in short, a denial of what we are proud to call natural justice." The decisions were therefore wholly void and could not be justified by a change of policy.

The judge ordered the GLC to pay the appellants' costs.

Dons lobby MPs to put case for more pay

By Diana Geddes

Education Correspondent

Lord Boyle of Handsworth, Vice-Chancellor of Leeds University, chairman of the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals and a former Minister of Education, was among nearly seven thousand university professors and lecturers who abandoned classes yesterday to lobby MPs in support of a demand for "rectification" of pay.

That would entail salary increases between 25 and 30 per cent but in settling the level for its recurrent grant the Government has allowed for increases of only 5 per cent. A delegation met Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, last night.

The pay anomaly of which the academics complain dates from 1975 when an independent tribunal recommended increased averaging about 20 per cent, plus an allowance for the rise in the cost of living, backdated to October, 1974, to give the university teachers parity with their colleagues in the public sector colleges of further education.

Although accepting the scales, the Government would not allow them to be paid until October, 1978. The first phase of the pay policy then intervened with the result that the university teachers received increases of only about 4 per cent.

The Association of University Teachers, which represents 29,000 out of a possible 33,000 teachers, says that an increase of about 16 per cent is required to regain parity with the further education teachers, plus another 10 per cent to 15 per cent to



University teachers at Westminster making a suitably academic point yesterday about their grievance.

cover the rise in the cost of living, backdated to October 1.

The association says the employers, the universities, the University Grants Committee, the Department of Education and Science and the Government, all agree that an anomaly exists. The union wants imme-

diate steps to be taken to remove it.

Present salaries for university lecturers range from £3,333 to £6,655. A senior lecturer or reader receives between £6,443 and £7,951. Professors are on a minimum scale of £8,106, and their average salary is £9,489.

Witness says any talk of 'Sigit' is damaging

Colonel B, an expert witness, said at the secret case hearing at Tottenham Magistrates' Court, London, yesterday that he thought it was against the national interest to have discussions. Sigit (Islamic intelligence) the way it had been during the hearing.

"Any reference to Sigit in the media is damaging," he added. "And the things I have said, I think are also damaging." He said he had spoken on the subject only after consulting senior officials.

Colonel B, who formerly had overall responsibility for army signals intelligence, said he thought any Sigit man who had discussed the operation with a person other than within the Sigit community had breached security. Even passing an opinion on the operation was a breach.

The public was not aware of United Kingdom Sigit activities until the present case, he said.

Before the court were Duncan Campbell, aged 24, a freelance journalist, of Franklin Road, Finsbury; John Aubrey, aged 31, a reporter on *Time Out* magazine, of De Beauvoir Road, Hackney, London; and John Ashley Berry, aged 33, former army corporal, now a special worker, of Alexandra Park Road, North London.

Mr Campbell is charged with obtaining from Mr Berry information that might be useful to an enemy; receiving such information from Mr Berry and collecting information concerning defence communications that might be useful to an enemy.

Mr Berry is charged with communicating information to Mr Campbell and communicating information to him while he held office under her Majesty. Mr Aubrey is charged with aiding and abetting Mr Campbell to commit offences contrary to the Official Secrets Act.

The hearing continues today.

Tighter curb on advertisements

Dealers and people selling goods in the course of business are to be banned from advertising in newspapers without disclosing the fact. The House of Commons yesterday approved an order under the Fair Trading Act intended to oblige traders from January 1 next to make clear in their advertisements that they are not private individuals.

The order goes to the Lords for approval today.

Mr David Lane, chairman of the Commission for Racial Equality, said it would encourage employers to keep records of the ethnic origins of em-

Demand by MPs to avoid 'unacceptable degree of dependence' on nuclear power

By Pearce Wright

Science Editor

An all-party group of MPs yesterday opened an early-day motion calling for measures to prevent Britain from becoming committed to an "unacceptable" degree of dependence on nuclear power.

The first 14 signatures to the motion came after a lobby of Parliament by more than two hundred leading scientists, members of conservation and environmental groups, and others who have objected to the large-scale expansion of atomic power.

The gathering under the label Energy 2000 for a meeting at the Commons, at which Mr Benn, Secretary of State for Energy, gave an account of energy on

energy on a significant scale within 10 to 15 years.

A different emphasis emerged from the programme for guiding nuclear policy presented to the meeting by the Town and Country Planning Association. It requested no further expansion of nuclear power until several uncertainties had been removed and health and safety hazards fully appraised and safely eliminated.

The programme is based on the argument that no solution to the difficulties of long-term disposal of high-level radioactive waste is at hand.

Reflecting analysis of the over 20 per cent United Kingdom expenditure on energy research and development is still allocated to nuclear power.

The motion notes that distinguished scientists have expressed anxiety about the dangers that may be associated with a plutonium economy, and demands large investment in the

development of alternative energy sources and conservation technology.

While accepting the importance of alternative sources of energy from solar power, which was raised and cited, Mr Benn saw them as long-term schemes in need of economic and environmental assessments, and certainly not as contributors of energy on a significant scale within 10 to 15 years.

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The opponents of nuclear power have also shown their awareness that the nuclear energy industry has lost one of its most important arguments: that no one has died directly because of the commercial uses of nuclear power.

That changed when awards were made in the High Court in Carlisle on Tuesday in the widows of two plutonium workers who were said to have died as a result of working at the Windscale plant of British Nuclear Fuels.

The awards, reached by agreement, included £22,441 for Mrs Gladys Trouton, on behalf of her husband, who died in 1975 from a type of cancer that can be linked to radiation. While accepting liability for Mr Trouton's illness, the company also agreed to pay £8,000 to Mrs Joan King, on behalf of her husband, who died of a brain tumour in 1973, but denied liability in that case.

As part of the settlement, which had been fought through the union negotiators for more than a year, British Nuclear Fuels is establishing a scheme for "automatic compensation" for the benefit of workers in the industry who suffer injury or death because of overexposure to radiation.

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OVERSEAS

British diplomat says his task has been completed in Rhodesia

From Our Correspondent

Salisbury, Nov 16

Mr Jeremy Varcoe, the British diplomat who has been based in Rhodesia since the beginning of September, has been withdrawn by the British Government and is to return to his post as First Secretary in the British High Commission in London.

Mr Varcoe said he had completed his main task of explaining the Anglo-American settlement proposals to interested groups and individuals in Rhodesia.

He told a multiracial public meeting in Salisbury that the referendum should be controlled strictly and kept free of intimidation. It should be by secret ballot.

He criticized Mr Ian Smith, the Prime Minister, for saying only two weeks ago that there should be a limited franchise with high qualifications.

Any fair-minded person who looked around Salisbury, he said, could see how unjust, unfair and unequal Rhodesian society was.

He had, at the same time, encountered wide mistrust of Britain. He hoped he had been able to a small degree to dispel some of it.

Mr Fraser Wilson, another British official, will remain in the British residency in Salisbury.

It had been raised

that the result of the referendum before the diamond budget committee in favour of a 10 per cent increase in imports and exports for a 10 per cent price increase.

Mr Wilson, the Foreign Secretary, tonight said: "I have no doubt that the result of the referendum before the diamond budget committee in favour of a 10 per cent increase in imports and exports for a 10 per cent price increase.

Mr Young said he had never expected the plan for a peaceful transfer of power to the black majority by the end of next year to be easy to implement.

"Nobody ever suspected that

it was going to be easy and that Field Marshal Carver and General Chaudhury would just go into Rhodesia and pick up the keys of government from Ian Smith," he said.

Lord Carver, Britain's resident Commissioner-designate for Rhodesia and General Chaudhury, the United Nations special representative, returned earlier this month from inconclusive talks.

Mr Young arrived in Sweden today for talks with Government officials on southern Africa and development aid.

There were reports tonight that he had suggested asking King Hussein of Jordan and Mr

Mr Sadat tries to reassure Syrians

From Edward Mortimer

Damascus, Nov 16

President Sadat arrived here today to begin the difficult task of explaining to President Assad of Syria the reasons for his proposed visit to Israel during the visit by an Arab leader.

Egyptian officials have been relieved that Syria has so far restrained from any public adverse comment on the proposal, but observers here are in no doubt that the Syrian leaders are deeply perplexed and uneasy.

Their discomfort is reflected in the fact that the Syrian news media have yet to give even the simplest factual report on the subject, although it is now a week since Mr Sadat first offered to visit Israel during a speech in the Egyptian Parliament.

The nearest thing to a comment came in a leading article last Saturday which questioned whether it was wise to regard the Geneva peace conference as the only hope for the Middle East, and particularly whether "journeys either here or there" could play a useful role.

Mr Assad was said to have been "grimed" as he welcomed the Egyptian President at the airport, although the two leaders embraced in the traditional Arab manner. However, their talks at the Syrian residence were reportedly said to have been held in a cordial atmosphere and an official dinner was cancelled so that they could carry on their discussions.

Mr Sadat is clearly anxious to get the widest possible Arab backing before going to Jerusalem, or at least to avoid any public disavowal from the other Arab "confrontation" states.

The leadership of Iraq's ruling Baath Party issued a statement calling on Arabs to



President Sadat welcomed by President Assad in Damascus yesterday.

Peace plan is 'very much alive', Mr Young says

Stockholm, Nov 16.—Mr Andrew Young, United States representative at the United Nations, said here today that the Anglo-American settlement plan for Rhodesia was "very much alive" despite setbacks.

The proposals have met with little support from either Mr Smith's Government or the Patriotic Front.

Mr Young said he had never expected the plan for a peaceful transfer of power to the black majority by the end of next year to be easy to implement.

There were reports tonight that he had suggested asking King Hussein of Jordan and Mr

Field Marshal Carver and General Chaudhury to remain in Rhodesia and pick up the keys of government from Ian Smith.

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Kaunda campaign to increase food production**Zambians urged to go back to land**

From a Correspondent

Lusaka, Nov 16

It quickly becomes apparent while flying over the Zambian bush that something is missing. The veld, a vast, unbroken sea of brown grass, stretches to the horizon. What is missing is the patchwork of cultivated farm land which forms part of the landscape of neighbouring African countries.

But President Kaunda of Zambia has his way all this will change. Faced with the prospect of an economic collapse of his country, he has launched a "back to the land" campaign. The price of copper dropped in 1975. Today, inflation is running at more than 20 per cent and there are signs of retrenchment for cooking oil to meat, building materials and even the staple maize meal. This has resulted in growing political unrest.

The closure of the border with Rhodesia has further exacerbated the situation. Despite demands by Zambian MPs for the border to be reopened, President Kaunda has decided to keep it closed, saying that Zambia must be prepared to pay the price "to free our neighbours from their oppression".

Observers are sceptical about the chances of success of the "back to the land" campaign. They point out that President Kaunda has been calling for the resettlement of the urban unemployed.

Television commercials and leading articles in newspapers extol the virtues of working the soil and the "dignity of

growing your own food" instead of "being a burden on the nation".

Zambia's economic future and political stability will depend to a large extent on the success of the programme.

Since independence in 1964, the Zambian economy has depended almost exclusively on copper. So long as millions of pounds worth of foreign currency were pouring in each year, the Government saw no reason to develop alternative sources of revenue.

But the price of copper dropped in 1975. Today, inflation is running at more than 20 per cent and there are signs of retrenchment for cooking oil to meat, building materials and even the staple maize meal. This has resulted in growing political unrest.

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Tonight on ITV, Jonathan Dimbleby reports from Chile four years after Allende's overthrow. Filmed secretly and smuggled back to Britain, THIS WEEK reveals, for the first time, the truth about life and death under the Pinochet regime. THIS WEEK tonight at 9.30pm on ITV.

**In brief****British scientist wins award**

From Our Own Correspondent

New York, Nov 16

Dr John Vane, group research and development director at the Wellcome Research Laboratories in Beckenham, Kent, is a joint winner of this year's Albert Lasker Basic Medical Research Award.

There are also the problems of moving large numbers of unskilled people to the land. Mr A. B. Chikwanda, the Minister of Agriculture, said that this was "not something you just do. You have to have a committee to study it first."

"But perhaps the biggest obstacle lies in the nature of the Zambian people. "They just do not like farming", explained Mr Benjamin Ogleby, the head of the Commercial Farmers Bureau.

Mr Chikwanda agreed: "The work is too hard and the pay is not enough. But we are going to increase the remuneration and the work easier and the yield higher."

But, it remains uncertain whether urban Zambians, who treasure their white collars, will suddenly want to get dirt under their finger nails.

Rabbi arrested

Los Angeles, Nov 16.—Nineteen Jewish Defence League supporters, including Rabbi Meir Kahane, the league leader, were arrested during a noisy demonstration at a Soviet exhibition. They were protesting about the treatment of Jews in Russia.

Minister murdered

Tehran, Nov 16.—Mr Ali Ahmed Khorram, Afghanistan's Minister of Planning, was shot dead as he was leaving his office in Kabul, according to an Iranian television report. The killer, who was not identified, was arrested.

Dissident trial

Moscow, Nov 16.—The mother of Mr Anatoly Shcharansky, the Jewish activist held since March 15, was cold today to engage a lawyer for her son, according to dissidents who said this indicated a trial—on a charge of treason—was near.

Villages shelled

Beirut, Nov 16.—Three villages were killed in a fresh outbreak of artillery duels between Israeli-backed right-wing Christian forces and Palestinian guerrillas in south Lebanon.

Agreement on bases

Manila, Nov 16.—The Philippines and the United States have agreed that military bases in the country used by American forces would in future be commanded by Philippine officers.

Police fire on mob

Bombay, Nov 16.—Forty-seven persons were injured today when police opened fire in an effort to disperse dockside demonstrators.

Dinosaur found

Moscow, Nov 16.—The remains of a dinosaur, thought to be nearly 120 million years old, have been found in the Gobi desert, south of Mongolia.

Firing squad death for airport assassin

Abu Dhabi, Nov 16.—A 19-year-old Palestinian was executed by firing squad at dawn today for killing the Deputy Foreign Minister of the United Arab Emirates in an airport shooting last month.

Salah Muhammad Khalid, born in exile in Iraq, was sentenced to death by a Sharia (Muslim religious) court.

The minister, Mr Saif bin Ghobash, was cut down in a hall of bullets fired from an Abu Dhabi airport balcony during a meeting of Mr Khalid, the Syrian Foreign Minister on October 25. The

bullets were believed to have been meant for the Syrian minister.

The mode of execution was chosen because it corresponded to the methods the killer himself used, the officials added.

The Sharia court traditionally sentences convicted murderers to be beheaded.

Mr Khalid took nine airport workers hostage and demanded an aircraft to escape in, but he was arrested.

Palestinian sources said here that Mr Khalid's secret trial and execution might have been rushed to forestall an attempt

ILO cuts expenditure after US withdrawal

From Our Correspondent

Geneva, Nov 16

The fifty-six-member governing body of the International Labour Organization (ILO) today approved cuts in programmes and personnel made necessary by the withdrawal earlier this month of the United States.

The \$169m (£94m) expenditure budgeted for the two years 1978-79 will be reduced by \$36.5m, with the remaining \$9.8m of the missing American contribution (£42.3m) made up by voluntary contributions and possible recourse to the reserve fund.

A detailed plan specifying the 230 posts to be abolished will be submitted to the meeting of the governing body at the end of February. It is hoped other United Nations

agencies can take some of the individuals affected.

The meeting in general obviously regarded the emergency as one which the ILO can save without severe structural damage. It was pointed out by Mr Cyril Plant, a British workers' delegate, that in announcing its decision to withdraw the United States Government had simultaneously raised its voluntary contribution to the United Nations development programme of the extra money it would otherwise have paid to the ILO.

As this programme finances some of the ILO technical assistance work, Mr Plant hoped the organization would ensure that a sizable proportion of the extra money would be used for this work.

Somalis jeer as Russians return home

Somaliland, Nov 16.—Soviet advisers left Somalia amid a wave of anti-Russian feeling today just 24 hours before the arrival of a congressional mission from the United States.

About 100 Russian military and civilian staff took off on an Aeroflot flight to Moscow.

A Soviet congressional delegation, which had been on a working visit to Somalia, was returning home and was due to leave the country by the end of the week.

The exodus follows Sunday's decision by Somalia to abrogate a three-year friendship treaty with the Soviet Union. The Government also broke off diplomatic relations with Cuba and all Cubans living in the country left yesterday.

Shouts of "down with the Russians" greeted any white-skinned people driving round Mogadishu today.—Reuter.

Continued from page 1
Siebert described Mr Biko as an urban terrorist. Mr Kenbridge interjected by saying that Mr Biko was being born-again and was convicted posthumously in an attempt to discredit him.

The magistrate, Mr M. J. Prins, intervened to say he was not investigating a crime but trying to find out whether anyone was responsible for Mr Biko's death. "Would it have been relevant if Mr Biko had committed certain crimes?" he asked the police counsel. Mr van Rooyen replied: "Not at all."

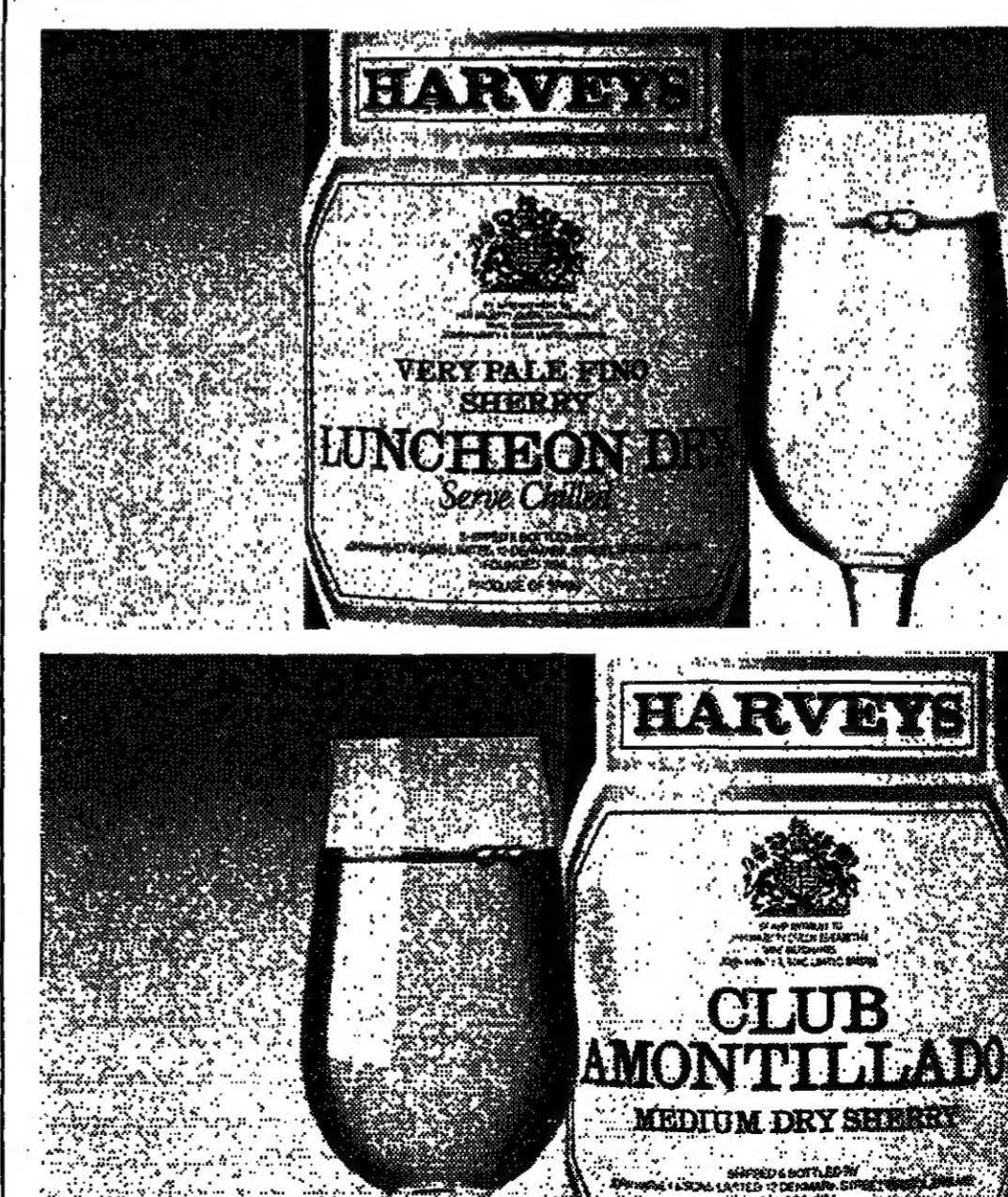
Two doctors and a specialist had examined Mr Biko in Port Elizabeth but found nothing wrong with him, Colonel Goosen said. A lumber puncture had been performed on him.

Mr Kenbridge asked Colonel Goosen why in his affidavit he had put forward a theory that Mr Biko was injured in the prison hospital in Port Elizabeth where he was taken on September 8 but had not suggested that he might have been hurt in the struggle the previous day.

It begins to become doubtful in view of the evidence whether that scuffle ever took place", Mr Kenbridge said. Earlier, he had suggested that Mr Biko had been "smashed up" while in police custody.

Brezhnev medal

Moscow, Nov 16.—President Brezhnev was today awarded a Karl Marx Gold Medal by the Soviet Academy of Sciences. It is the academy's highest award.



A closer look at two classic styles of sherry.

The qualities that distinguish a great wine from an ordinary wine are colour, bouquet and taste.

The qualities that distinguish a classic fino are a very pale golden colour, a fresh delicate bouquet, and a very crisp dry taste. Luncheon Dry is just such a fino, and is always best served chilled.

LUNCHEON DRY & CLUB AMONTILLADO
from Harveys of Bristol

The qualities of a classic amontillado are a richer light amber colour, a distinctive aroma, and a medium dry taste which has taken on a particular nuttiness from ageing in cask.

Such are the distinguishing characteristics of Club Amontillado.

OVERSEAS

Minister's penthouse could be an issue in Australian election

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, Nov 16

The personal property dealings of Mr Phillip Lynch, the federal Treasurer appear likely to become an issue in the election on December 10. Allegations were made in the Australian Parliament yesterday that he bought a penthouse in the expensive Surfers Paradise resort of the Surfers Paradise from the proceeds of land deals.

A Victoria Government inquiry into alleged land deals between the Government's Housing Commission and land developers has been proceeding in Melbourne for several weeks, with senior state ministers denying any implication despite strong allegations that members of the Liberal Party and land developers have been involved in mutual benefits.

To cries of "blackmail" and "bribery" Mr White said the people of Australia were entitled to know what Mr Lynch and Mr Cooke received from the Treasurer in return for \$110,000.

Under medical advice, Mr Lynch who is recovering from a kidney ailment, is declining to see visitors. His private secretary, Mr Andrew Cooke, complained of a series of inaccurate and tendentious reports in the media and of scurrilous comments made yesterday in the Victoria Parliament.

These reports had caused great distress to Mrs Lynch and her three children and Mr Lynch, confined to hospital after an operation, had been unable to deal with them.

No evidence has been produced so far to support the claims of Mr White and Mr Landry and they have been denied by Mr Lynch's accountants.

Another Victoria Labor member, Mr Bill Landry, told Parliament that a com-

pany called Nandina Investments in 1973 held options on land at Stump Gully on the Mornington Peninsula. In 1976 the options inexplicably "passed" to Grosvenor Nominees, a trust company owned by the Lynch family.

He described the principals of Nandina Investments, Mr Peter Leake and Mr Colin Cooke, as weird if not evil men. The price of the transfer from Nandina to Grosvenor in March, 1976, was \$A27,230, which was the same price as in 1973, when Nandina took the options. In October, 1976, Grosvenor Nominees sold the land, consisting of 20 allotments, for \$A136,125, which was a return to the Lynch family of \$A110,000 or a 500 per cent profit.

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Injured man crawls for 13 days in creek

Sydney, Nov 16.—An 18-year-old art student with a broken leg crawled for 13 days unnoticed along a creek bed in a Sydney suburb, only a few yards from a busy main road.

The man, Mr Stephen Sheehy, said here today that his knowledge of the outdoors probably saved his life. He lived on weeds and drank creek water.

When he was found he broke down crying: "Don't leave me, don't leave me."

Mr Sheehy was in hospital today, recovering from an ordeal which began on October 30 when he fell off his bicycle, tumbled over a safety barrier and dropped 25ft into the creek. He broke his leg in the fall and, unable to stand, spent hours calling vainly for help.

His cries were drowned by the roar of traffic and he was shielded from the view of hundreds of houses by thick bushes surrounding the creek.

Realizing he might die if he stayed where he was, Mr Sheehy started to drag himself along the creek bed.

He was able to travel only about 60 yards a day before pain and exhaustion caused him to pass out. He ate weeds and drank from pools in the creek. He told his parents: "The sound of the birds kept me going. I listened to their calls."

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ENTERTAINMENTS

Who is performing see page D1 only outside London Metropolitan Area.

OPERA AND BALLET

COLISEUM, Covent Garden, 01-560 5225. Performances 01-560 5225. **ENGLISH NATIONAL OPERA**, Tonight & Sat. 7.30 p.m. **Traviata**: 7.30 & Wed. 8.00. **La Fille du Roi**: 7.30. **104** **Saumon** seats always available day of part.

COVENT GARDEN C.C., 340, 1056. **THE ROYAL OPERA**

Tonight & Mon. 6 p.m. **Don Giovanni**. **THE ROYAL BALLET**, Fri. & Wed. 7.30 p.m. **Enigma Variations**. **THE ROYAL CHORUS**, Sat. 2.15 p.m. & 7.30 p.m. **Swan Lake**. **55 Amphitheatres** for all shows on sale from 10 a.m. on day of part.

SADLER'S WELLS THEATRE, **REPERTORY**, 10.30 a.m. **UNHAPPY**. **THE ROYAL CONTEMPORARY DANCE THEATRE**, **TOUCH**, 7.30 p.m. **From Spain** (London Première). **Classical**.

CONCERTS

QUEEN ELIZABETH HALL, Tonight 7.30. **THE ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY**, **SATURDAY NIGHT**, 8 p.m. **VERA REQUIEM**.

ROYAL CHORAL SOCIETY, **ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCH. STRAUS**, **CONDUCTING LEON BLOCH** & **Agnes**, 8.15-23. **01-569 2212**.

THEATRES

ADELPHI THEATRE, 3.01-566 7611. **7. LONDON'S BEST NIGHT OUT** SPECTACULARLY STUPID. **THEATRE AND STAGE COMPANY**, 8. People **IRENE**.

THE MUSICAL MUSICAL, **SLATER'S THEATRE**, 7.30. **INSIDE OUT**, **10.30** **11.15**. **ALBERTY**, 8.36-3787. **Evenings** 8. **Laws** Thur. 3. **9.30** & **10.30**.

DEBORAH KERR, **DENIS O'QUELL**, **Two Masterly Performances**, **By Sartor Shaw**, **CANDIDA**.

IMPOSSIBLE SPILL, **Daily Mail**, **Credit Card Bookings** 8.36 (see Set 1).

ALBERTY, 8.36-3878. **From 21** **MAGICAL MUSICAL OLIVES** I.

ALBANY, 8.36-6204. **REPO** AND **ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY**, **Brech's**, **TEATRE OF THE COMMUNITY**, **Matador**, **With a bang**, **2.00** and **7.30**. **RE**, **8.00** **10.30** **11.15**. **Wickedly Funny**, **The Times**.

ENDURANCE ABOUND, **E. News**, **8.00** & **Top price** **27.50** **inc.**

TONY STOPPARD'S DIRTY LINEN, **Even** 8.30. **Fri. Sat. 7 & 15**.

AMBASSADOR, 8.36-1171. **Credit** **2.35** **Hilarious Whodunit**.

SOMETHING'S AFLOAT, **Introducing** **10.30** **11.15**. **Very High Octane** **Alberty**, **perfection** **farce** **10.30** **11.15**. **Wickedly Funny** **1.00** **10.30**.

SHUT YOUR EYES AND THINK OF ENGLAND.

ASTORIA, **CHARLES X**, 3.01-7342. **EST. Mon. 7.30** & **8.45**.

OPEN **8.00** **10.30** **11.15**.

Open November 28th. Tickets **prices** **10.00** **12.00** **14.00**. **Astoria Restaurant**, **Din** **10.00** **12.00** **14.00**. **Credit Card Bookings**.

CAMBRIDGE THEATRE, **Tel. 01-833** **Richard Golding, Ian Talbot in** **TOAD OF TOAD HALL**.

Mus. Dir. 0.00 **10.30** **11.15**.

BOOK NOW.

CHURCHILL, **5 & 8. **THEATRE****, **0.00** **10.30** **11.15**.

COLIN DAWSON, **BYRON**, **From Mon. 21** **Nov.** **Hinge & Bracket**.

COMPANY, **0.01-532 2078**.

W. MAY, **7.30** **8.30** **10.30** **11.15**.

NIWELL BENNETT IN **SIR GRAY'S** **INTERVIEW**, **ENGAGED**.

Open by 10.30.

CATERING, **0.01-516 1016** (Credit Card).

ELAINE B. S. 3.00 **8.00** **10.30**.

LESLIE PHILLIPS, **"Unpredictable**, **5. Times** **in** **SEXTET** **"N.O.W.**

DRURY LANE, **01-836 8100** **Evenings** **10.30** **11.15**.

NO. 1 CHORUS LINE, **VOOTED BEST MUSICAL** **1976**.

DUCHESS, **0.36 8243**, **Evenings** **8.00** **10.30** **11.15**.

OPEN **6.00** **10.30** **11.15**.

"The Ruddy is stunning", **Tel.** **8.00** **SENSATIONAL** **YEAR**.

DUKE OF YORK, **0.01-836 8100** **Evenings** **7.30** **8.30** **10.30** **11.15**.

ARTHUR LOWE, **"Magnificent** **Performance** **1.00** **10.30** **11.15**.

LAMMIUM GROVE, **10.30** **11.15**.

"An Impressive Production", **S. Times** **Credit Cards Accepted**.

FORTUNE, **0.36 2238**, **Mon. to Fri. 8.00** **10.30** **11.15**.

MARIO PAVONE AS **MISS MARPLE** IN **AGATHA CHRISTIE'S MURDER ON THE VILLAGER**.

GARRICK THEATRE, **0.01-836 4501**.

MAGGIE FITZSIMMON, **CAT**, **SOY**, **DAVID FIRTH & ROBIN BAILEY** IN **THE ENTERTAINMENT**.

SIDE BY SIDE **BY BONDI**, **"GO TWICE"**, **8. Marry, Punch**, **GO 3 TIMES**, **"C. Barnes**, **11.15**.

CLOSE, **0.01-371 1992**, **Evenings** **8.00** **10.30** **11.15**.

PAUL EDDINGTON **in** **THE SECOND YEAR** **of** **DONKEY'S YEARS** **by** **MICHAEL FRAZ**.

GREENWICH THEATRE, **0.01-836 7578**.

Opening night **7.00**, **8.00**, **10.30**, **11.15**.

THE PATRICK **by** **August Strindberg**.

HAMPSTEAD, **7.30 8.00**, **Evenings** **Mon. 8.00** **10.30** **11.15**.

THE ELEPHANT MAN **"A** **curious young play"** **"Time** **to be missed"** **9.00**.

HAYMARKET, **0.01-836 9883**.

CLARE BLOOM **DANIEL MASSEY** **in** **MICHAEL ALDRIDGE** **in** **ROSMERSEY**.

DISTINGUISHED REVIVAL **OF** **IRISH** **GRANITE** **PLAY** **MURDER** **IN THE** **STUDY** **BY** **ANAGH CHRISTIE** **"D. T. T. for** **A UNITED SEAS**.

KING'S ROAD **THEATRE**, **0.01-836 7008**.

THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW **NOW** **IN** **ITS 5TH ROCKING** **YEAR**.

Preview performances **today** **at** **2.30** **and** **7.30**.

Restoration Comedy **By** **Wycherley**.

THE COUNTRY **WIFE**.

Cast includes **Polly**, **Adams**, **Robin Bailey**, **Ann Beach**, **Kenneth Cranham**, **Albert Finney**, **Gawn Granger**, **Richard Johnson**, **Ben Kingsley**, **Susan Lister**, **Helen Ryan**, **Nicholas Selby**, **Elizabeth Spriggs**, **Tel Stevens**, **Madeline Thomas**.

NT Olivier **Theatre** **NATIONAL THEATRE** **01-528 2253**.

ART GALLERIES

WYNDRIDGE'S, **624, 3028, Old Bond St.** **Mon. 10.30 a.m. to 5.15 p.m.** **2.30 & 3.30**.

VERY ENTHRALLED, **11.15**.

MARY O'MAHY'S, **Small** **comedy** **10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.** **1.30**.

TRAVEL.

YOUNG VIC STUDIO, **100 Old Vic**, **Mon. 10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.** **2.30 & 3.30**.

THE ROYAL, **10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.** **2.30 & 3.30**.

CAUSE CELEBRE, **10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.** **2.30 & 3.30**.

SCARFACE, **10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.** **2.30 & 3.30**.

LYRIC THEATRE, **10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.** **2.30 & 3.30**.

PETER PAN, **10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.** **2.30 & 3.30**.

LYRIC THEATRE, **10.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m.** **2.30 & 3.30**.

ROGER WHITTAKER.

CINEMAS

ARC 1 & 2, **Shakespeare Ave.** **0.06**.

1. OPERATION THUNDERbolt **10.30**.

2. VOYAGE OF THE DAMNED **10.30**.

3. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

ACADEMY ONE, **10.30**.

4. JONATHAN **10.30**.

5. THE LACE-MAKER **10.30**.

6. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

7. TOMORROW **10.30**.

8. HALF-LIFE **10.30**.

9. JOHNATHAN ADAMS **10.30**.

10. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

11. TOMORROW **10.30**.

12. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

13. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

14. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

15. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

16. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

17. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

18. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

19. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

20. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

21. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10.30**.

22. THE LADY IN THE VAN **10**

Fashion

by Prudence Glynn



Angelo Tarlazzi

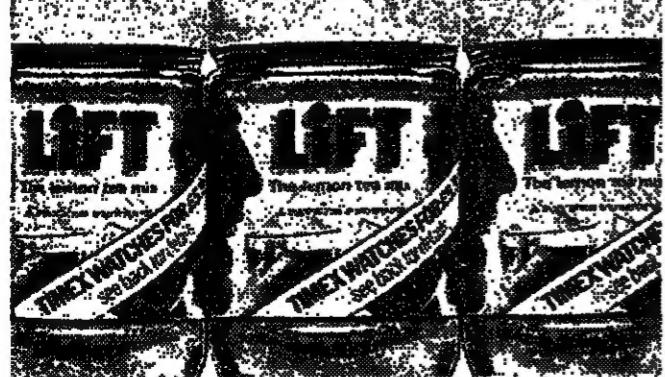
Award winning CubeKit!

Our versatile and inexpensive (all-white) 15" cubes also 25 each, starting at £1.95. Recently just won the 1976 Living Magazine Good Design Award for furniture. Phone/write for our full mail-order catalogue or visit our showrooms.



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Telephone: 01-984 8016
Industrial Estate, Brandon, Suffolk
Tel: Thetford (0842) 810696

Now coffee costs so much,
old habits can be expensive.



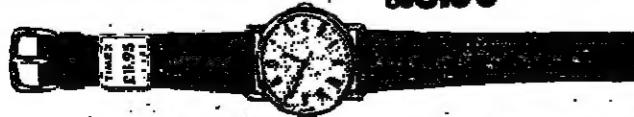
Break with tradition. Try Lift Lemon Tea instead of coffee. Lift is lighter, it doesn't need milk or sugar; it's quite deliciously tangy and you can drink it hot or iced. It is also only 35p a jar. Rec. retail price.

LIFT
Lemon Tea

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One of these superb Timex watches for only £5.99 inc. P & P and VAT



These Timex watches, on sale at £11.95 are available in a gift or chrome finish.

Send the coupon and the labels from two jars of Lift together with a cheque or Postal Order made out to 'Lift Watch Offer', to:

Lift Watch Offer
George Payne & Co. Ltd, P.O. Box No. 36, London NW2 7AH

Please send me Timex men's watches in chrome/gilt finish at £5.99 each & Timex women's watches in chrome/gilt finish at £5.99 each. I enclose a cheque for £ and two Lift labels per item.

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ADDRESS
PO Code

Please allow 28 days for delivery. Offer available only in the UK.
Offer closes 28th February 1978.
Post early to receive your watches well in time for Christmas.

Are you ready-to-wear it?

If Yves Saint Laurent is remembered for nothing else (and he will be) it will be remembered as the designer who broke the hold of traditional French Haute Couture. In 1972 the pernickety Yves majored his efforts onto the Rive Gauche, ready-to-wear side of his activities and stated in effect that it was street fashion to which the mass market producer is of course much closer, which dictated trends. He was not a moment too soon, for breaching down the necks of the Establishment was the dazzling Kenzo Takada who for the next five years was to be among the most influential fashion makers in the world. (The life span used to be 10 years, ever since with Concord and inflation things have a bit speeded up.)

Saint Laurent was also uniquely qualified to perform the task. Trained in the highest traditions—and they do not come any higher—of Paris couture, robed as a lad in the mantle of the great Christian Dior, the weight of which proved too much, he is also the most responsive to the echoes of latent taste and consumer desire. Saint Laurent made blue denim OK for dowagers. He also made le ready-to-wear more chic than standing around in a dress made, as a gaudy-looking French aunt once pointed out to me, for the same use as a small greenhouse.

The problem for most women is that there are an awful lot of streets, in life and in fashion, and which one should you follow? The answer is, the designer who happens to be walking your way. That brings us to the question which way are you walking? Gone are those long straight boulevards labelled "skirt two inches above/below the knee, navy blue coat for spring, hat must match gloves". Instead it is Time Out time, buy your own compass, steer by the stars, and Heaven help all who look like nothing on earth at the end of the journey.

Nothing could highlight this point more than the recent portrait a poster shows in Paris. On the one hand, the predictable stodgy, wheeling out the wooden horse to justify inefficient seating arrangements, opening it to reveal not famed warriors of design but a few tatty reprises. On the other some really new names.

I can suggest four. The first is the boutique Zoso in the Rue Pierre Lescot which for cheap, jazzy clothes, those frilled petticoats etc—is unbeatable. Next by is France Andrevie, 2 Place des Victoires, a young woman whose elegance and distinguished handwriting have made her a great favourite with

American buyers. Vera Finkberg, 20 Rue du Vieux-Colombier makes the most beautiful knitwear, soft colours, gentle lines, pretty, flattering stuff to pack and wear and wear, and pack.

But the most interesting discovery for me was Angelo Tarlazzi. Now, here is a man who has been around. Seventeen years in the business, in his native Rome (with Caros) then New York with the legendary Jerry Silverman, then with Jean Patou, then suddenly on his own.

I thought his collection was simply beautiful. He is one of those very rare designers who know how to leave fabric alone. Givenchy has always said that the material tells you what you do with it, but Tarlazzi, in the same way as our own Yukio, just lets it do what it most ought to. Under the apparent negligence there is the eagle eye of the erstwhile haute couturier, however. Those soft, cotton miracles of fold and drapery, in fact made not of the any old cheesecloth you may care to strain your tea through but of the finest, softest, long staple Egyptian cotton.

They do not crease, they float and flow, and they were commanded by the properly intransigent M. Tarlazzi from an Italian mill which was famous for prints. "For me", he assured them, "you will make just the base cloth, in five colourways" and they did, and it is truly lovely. Tarlazzi has got not only an amazing eye for fabric but the nous to know that the more simple (apparently) the shape the better the cloth must be to support it. There are a few prints, with which he declares himself unsatisfied, though I thought they were neat.

But what I really liked was this control—not courrancé—of his medium. All of a sudden, Angelo Tarlazzi, without fear or favour, has discovered himself. Customers benefit from his training. The trousers are tactfully sniped at the waist, for comfort and fit; the colours are ravishing, the knitwear ought to push Scotland farther towards devolution if they could hire him. Then he wants a woman to buy just one piece from him to start with, and when it is with something else, which cannot but appeal to the inflation hit poor Brits.

Only two pages. "Where did you get these wonderful colours?" said I. "Oh well, from my water colour paint box. Mind you, the producer wasn't very pleased, he said 'what's this? But in, did them? How long?' I quavered. 'Oh, 24 hours, I suppose'. And that beautiful fabric. 'They said we make prints but OK. For you we'll make it plain.' In Italy.



Zoso



France Andrevie



Thinking man's blouson

By Inverté, an all-wool blouson jacket of rare understated style in a soft grey check. £49.00. Grey polo neck and trousers from a selection.

Simpson Piccadilly Ltd, London, W1A 2AS. 01-734 2902. Open until 7.00 p.m. Thursdays, 5.30 p.m. Saturdays.



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NEW BOOKS

An unknown country

A History of Rhodesia
By Robert Blake
(Eyre Methuen, £12.50)

"If the outside world has taken little interest in the history of Rhodesia from the end of the rebellions to the beginning of federation," declares Robert Blake at the start of his new book, "this is largely because much of it is not very interesting".

Yes, indeed, and since the period in question—1897 to 1953—takes up more than half of Rhodesia's story and up to one-third of *A History of Rhodesia*, that is a brave thing to say, but there is nothing in this scrupulously professional account of the land between the Limpopo and the Zambezi, between the Kalahari and Mozambique, once described as among the most beautiful in the world, to make the reader disagree. Lord Blake's title is plain enough, but should have been even more so, for this is, specifically, a political and constitutional history of Rhodesia, which lightens our ignorance in these lands, but does not increase our understanding much beyond them. A pity, because out of that same ignorance and indifference

have grown the events of the last 25 years and today.

There is a mystery here, whatever you think of Cecil Rhodes, Dr Jameson, Roy Welensky or Ian Smith, in themselves they are not dull. Neither was the brilliant, late Victorian eccentric Harry Johnston of Nyasaland, nor the clever Godfrey Huggins, later Lord Malvern, nor Garfield Todd, the "liberal" Prime Minister (all political labels must be handled with care in Africa) and of all these and more Blake scatters lively character-sketches throughout the book.

Yet except for Rhodes, Jameson, Smith and perhaps (in a gentler age) Huggins, none of these interesting individuals directly controlled the course and quality of history itself.

With a few notable exceptions, South Africa, too, has lacked major personalities in Government, yet there is nothing about the history of South Africa—the stakes are so high, the risks so awful, some of the people so talented—so why is Rhodesia, an historical outlier in Rhodesia, so? Is it because the white immigrants were so?

That is the mystery of Rhodesia, an historical outlier in Rhodesia.

Fiction

Sunset at Blandings
By P. G. Wodehouse
(Chatto & Windus, £3.95)

On any day during the last week, your reviewer could have been discovered, the volume under appraisal drooping from a long, hard, nervous hand, staring dully ahead, the eyes glazed, the brow sickled with the pale cast of thought and murmuring "Here's a sorry state of things" and "That it should come to this".

Now as those of you who read my piece on the last *Jeeves* opus will know, I yield to no one in my devotion to P. G. Wodehouse—though not, it is true, to the entire canon, since I can't be doing with the Old-Est Member. When I am not a Jeeves person, I am a Blandings person. Those nine novels have seen me through thick and thin. When all else has failed, on interminable train journeys, in uninvited lover, influences and maternity homes, I have been soothed and diverted by the

Southern Rhodesia (which is the "Rhodesia" Blake is concerned with) was once cruelly but unforgivably described as "The Sergeant's Mess" (Kenya being for the Officers)?

We have so little information about them I should like to know exactly where in Britain they came from, and how many went back. How valid is the claim that they had, and still have, nowhere else to go? Many only went out in the 1950s and Blake, like many outside commentators, is sceptical on their homelessness. No imaginative writer has spoken for, or even against, them (contrast again South Africa's comparative riches). It may be that there is nothing to say, but I find that hard to believe, and now that their descendants have cowered under the memory ever since.

Lord Blake discerns five turning-points in the history of Southern Rhodesia: the European occupation; the rule of the Chartered Company and its replacement, in 1923, by Responsible Government chosen by referendum; in reference to the 1924 South African (now courted by Smith); the establishment of the Central African Federation in 1953; its dismemberment 10 years later; UDI

in 1965. The main narrative ends there, but an epilogue most usefully brings the story through Tiger and *Fearless* to Kissinger, Dr Owen and as far as June this year—a remarkable achievement in a book of the past 12 years may, as Blake observes, never be written at all. There are too many people of all persuasions committed to not telling the whole truth.

A History of Rhodesia does that, as far as it goes: as a dispersive account it will be invaluable. Moreover, Lord Blake writes with a dry wit and some feeling, and has a keen mind for ironies in which the Rhodesian story is unusually rich. It is Todd, not a white Rhodesian racist, who enters Blake in the night beauty of his garden at Dadiya and asks: "why should we ever have to leave? It is the reforming Edgar Whitehead, not Smith, who sets up the machinery of the police state available for those who wish to use it today. And it is most remarkable that in this book of a book at present in which Harold Wilson emerges as a figure of compassion, dignity, and tireless good will.

Michael Ratcliffe

bleatings of Clarence, Ninth Earl of Emsworth, speculated about Gatsby's three-storey story of Sir Gregory, Poirot and the pawns, followed the fortunes of young hearts sunburned in springtime and men with false beards and names infiltrated into the castle.

The place itself, its parks, gardens and messengers, I know from caviare to nuts, the nooks of Beach's pantry, the crannies of the Empress's sty. Blandings is "as near resembling an enchanted fairytale as dam—" which is how Grahame unexpectedly describes it in this book. Which brings me to the point: when the village stable would call "the stable is a tissue". This book, you might think that we devotees would be undiscriminating enough to lap up eagerly any last little crumb the Master let fall. You would be wrong. We have our pride, and Wodehouse has his.

Sunset at Blandings is no good. Not, that is, as presented here in its rough, incomplete state. Whether it would, at some distant date, have become any good, if he'd lived to finish and polish it, I'm uncertain. I suspect not. Wodehouse was alert, conscientious, hard-working to the last, but he was

a very old man. Evelyn Waugh, a shrewd critic of Wodehouse, said: "One is not a great man as a Master who can produce an average three uniquely brilliant and entirely original

and page to each page."

But that was in the earlier books, *Summer Lightning*, say, or *Full Moon*, or even, bringing us into the 1960s, *Service with a Smile*, to take only Blandings titles. He was a Master of the language, he created an idyllic world, the perfect English peregrin, he was the cleverest plotter in the business and side-splittingly funny.

None of which is evident here. Not that one blames Wodehouse. He would never have allowed any first, skeletal draft to see the light of day in

Print.

There are 100 pages of it and the book runs to over 200, so what else do they offer us for almost £4?

Mock-scholarly appendices by Richard Usborne, that's what, and pages of the author's notebooks—*Work in Progress*, which are illuminating and amusing. Also an earnest survey, complete with maps and plans, of Bland-

ings, its architecture, and layout, internal and external, and a diverting piece of detective work on its exact geographical location worked out from memory of train times and early copies of *Bradshaw*.

All of this strikes me as twice,

in the way that *Winnie the Pooh* and *Peter Rabbit* in Latin are twice. The business of comparing various volumes and spotting discrepancies, speculating about what Wodehouse would have done with various

recreants of plot and providing explanatory footnotes about the old Pelicans Club or Whiffle on the Care of the Pig is great fun to do oneself on a wet afternoon, tedious to read.

I could run through the plot for you, but take my word, there'd be no point: it wouldn't whet your appetite. Much better to re-read all the earlier, compressed masterpieces. And re-read, and re-read...

Susan Hill

is alert to diplomatic niceties and on an imaginary trip to Heaven she refuses a ham sandwich because St Peter looks askance at it. She is a deeply felt exploration of the inner life of one old woman, like a sparrow that visits her every afternoon, is under-valued.

She is in hospital, in pain, pushing away counterpanes and pills with supercilious spirit as she lives concurrently in her past, mostly, and in her thoughts of Heaven and Hell. In a final personal choice she puts herself in the place of her own drowned child, a breath-taking and moving act that, like the novel, celebrates loving imagination.

The freshness of the style of his narrator, an incclellent teacher who serves as Ruffo's "conscience" and who is responsive to southern sensuousness, (I shall not forget his horserides on a "comforting, playful" road from Borgia) Ruffo, though never a priest, becomes a cardinal through family influence and when King Ferdinand flees to Palermo, Ruffo sets out to transform people's minds with a punitive army of bandits, cowboys, hooligans—anyone attracted by looks and sucking cliché. But it is the gradual transformation of himself and the narrator, as they progress through conflicting theories and the violent derangement they cause, that shapes this novel.

Yvonne Mitchell's gracfully literate new novel, *But Answer Came There None*, is also visionary, and well-set with humour. Her central character

is a woman who has not kept up with this master humorist should start here.

Elspeth, Flashy's wife, has become delightful, countering much of her beloved Harry's gory anti-heroism with a zeal for life that includes loyalty to his every shift in the wrong direction; she has down her own account of their adventures and though helpless spelling say complicit, she is not the fool she tries to look; lacking an education at Rugby where, as Flashy says, to survive physically one becomes a moral wreck, she insists that middle-class nursery morality rules not in the middle of massacres and odiousness she declares. Both Flashman's land up in Madagascar where despotic black queen forces Flashy to be her paramour, but pragmatism is almost his invention. Mr. Fraser's narrative drive and critical affection for men and shakers of dominions are wholehearted pleasures.

The williness of force is one of several themes in an exciting and thoughtful first novel by Peter Nichols. Ruffo in

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JP, is 150

The Norwich way is to speak the business language of Europe.

In France, perfume is a great industry and mimosa an important ingredient in its manufacture.

So it is on the hills above Grasse, where mimosa grows wild, that Monsieur

Philippe Bonne
of Norwich
Union Insurance
discusses with
Monsieur Cetto,
top parfumeur,

aspects of the business of their
mutual client, Lancôme.

Why does a famous French
perfume house like Lancôme
turn to Norwich Union for
important insurances?

Like most successful

companies Lancôme know the value of expert advice. They appreciate that Norwich Union are specialists with an informed and sympathetic understanding of their clients' business and its insurance needs.

Although many major international companies enjoy Norwich Union's personal approach to insurance, it isn't reserved for big names only.

Take your problems to
Norwich and
you'll find they
speak your
language too.



**NORWICH
UNION
INSURANCE**



Ronald Butt

The cloud threatening to tarnish Mr Callaghan's silver lining

"The real victory will come", said Mr Callaghan at the Lord Mayor's banquet on Monday, "when we achieve and maintain a steady and continuous growth in our economy, a much lower level of unemployment and steadier prices."

And he might have added that the most important of these achievements, and the key to all the others, is growth—not the feeble, booming expansion which the electorate has been tricked in past "recoveries" from economic restraint, but the genuine increase in the use of resources for profitable and sensible production, which an industrial country must have to pay its way in an increasingly difficult world market.

Some of the necessary pre-conditions for this kind of growth obviously do now exist, and the Government can take some credit for them. We are now running a substantial current trade surplus; our reserves have risen beyond most expectations; government borrowing has been restrained; the annual rate of inflation has nearly halved compared with 1975-76 and should go into single figures next year if there is not a pay explosion.

As a result of all this, Mr Healey has been able to make a start on creating the conditions which give a chance of economic revival.

Interest rates have been brought down and are at least no longer a disincentive to investment; industry seems to have the latest intention to invest and the Treasury expects this to continue; the Chancellor has been enabled to make a start on reducing taxation (to be continued next April), which should be an incentive to demand.

The object of the cautious policy of easing up on restraint is to bring into use the very great deal of at present unused capacity of men and plant. But a major question remains. Will easier financial conditions really stimulate production and particularly production for export? When we find our sees again at the bottom of the kind of consumer demand which once more throws the economy out of balance and can only be satisfied by imports on a scale we cannot afford?

This is the danger. Industrial production remains pretty flat and there is a clear risk that the demand which should result from more purchasing power will lead rather to a stronger growth of imports than to a sustained improvement in a consumer-led inflation.

The Government's strategy for avoiding this is the caution with which it is easing up. That is why it is moving in slow, hesitant stages with its tax concessions; why it is still cautious about the money supply; and



Mr Callaghan and Mr Tapsell: a wary reply on exchange controls.



why Mr Healey still resists the pressures to follow the floating of the pound upwards by relaxing exchange controls so as to allow British investment over seas.

The other day Mr Peter Tapsell, one of the newly appointed Conservative Treasury shadows, put to the Chancellor the danger that if exchange controls are not relaxed, the pound will appreciate so much that our industry will either become less competitive abroad, or that we will be put too high relative to others.

Mr Healey's reply was in

structure of the warning with which the Government views the present silver linings.

It is a buyer's market, we cannot compete on prices, and even more on quality and delivery; if demand simply goes into imports, then we shall once again get, not the kind of growth we need, but a consumer-led inflation.

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why Mr Healey still resists the pressures to follow the floating of the pound upwards by relaxing exchange controls so as to allow British investment over seas.

Yet the whole direction of Labour policy for the future points the other way—towards further state agglomeration, more intervention, more costly bureaucracy. The economy is not going to be put on a right course of economic techniques alone. The growth that Mr Callaghan wants depends on politics, too.

The paradox of the situation now is that the more successfully the Government appears to use the reserves to maintain the pound in another crisis, if capital had been exported for investment. In any case, it is inclined to prefer, since investment is sluggish worldwide, that investment capital should be deployed at home, rather than abroad.

It is not easy to dissent from the Treasury view on this matter, in the light of its clear opposition to the present cautiousness of the present economic improvement. There will certainly be no rapid export growth and there is the danger that the modest stimulus the Government is applying might cause the economy to overheat without bringing the unemployed resources of men and machines into use to create the right kind of growth.

This is first and foremost, a problem for industry itself—sides of it. The proper use of resources; the problems of investment, productivity and

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It is not easy to dissent from the Treasury view on this matter, in the light of its clear opposition to the present cautiousness of the present economic improvement. There will certainly be no rapid export growth and there is the danger that the modest stimulus the Government is applying might cause the economy to overheat without bringing the unemployed resources of men and machines into use to create the right kind of growth.

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LEYLAND RESTRUCTURED AGAIN

Yesterday marked the end of another chapter in the British Leyland saga. It is the formal end of the so-called Ryder plan for the company, published in March, 1975. So long as Lord Ryder remained chairman of the National Enterprise Board and his chosen man, Mr Alex Park, remained chief executive of British Leyland it was difficult, if not impossible, for there to be any significant departure from that original rather rigid blueprint.

The central criticism of the Ryder concept was that, by insisting on extreme centralization, the potentially profitable parts of the enterprise, like special cars, were being dragged down by the dead weight of the mass car division. In particular, since the new "Mini" replacement programme for the mass car division was of such high importance to Leyland from the point of view of employment, there was the standing danger that potentially profitable activities would be deprived of their fair share of necessary development capital.

Coupled with this was the criticism that the Ryder plan committed the taxpayer to heavy future investment in British Leyland, without a prior guarantee that there would be any improvement in the productivity of the group as a whole. Indeed, whatever words may have subsequently been spoken

in an attempt to give the contrary impression, the Government takeover of the company and the very existence of the Ryder plan were widely taken as a public admission that the Government could not allow the mass car division of British Leyland to collapse, whatever its production or profit record. All threats, or statements, to the contrary lacked credibility to the workforce and the management alike.

Mr Edwards, the new chairman, starts with every advantage of a fresh man with fresh ideas and a fresh approach. His initial move, in proposing the division of the company into four operating companies, each with separate limited liability and a separate capital structure, is clearly designed to tackle those central weaknesses of the Ryder approach. It remains to be seen, however, if this division will be achieved and what in practice limited liability means in the rather special context of a group, owned as to 95 per cent by the Government. In theory it should mean that the commercial performance of each component will be separately highlighted and future capital investment programmes and employment levels adjusted accordingly.

There, however, lies the real test facing Mr Edwards. It is relatively easy to change the form in which things are done

and presented. It is always much more difficult to change the substance. And with its new structure the Leyland group will still be facing the issues which have faced it ever since the days of the original 1968 merger, which created the group under Lord Stokes as a company in the private sector.

Chief amongst these is the question whether, in a world of high oil prices and dominant, internationally integrated car companies like Ford and General Motors, a purely national car company relying so heavily on the British domestic market and exports can survive. Allied to this is the question whether and how, if the answer is no, a manufacturing operation the size of the Leyland mass car division can be scaled down without unacceptable social and industrial dislocation.

If the new management concludes, as its predecessors have done, that there is still a future for a mass car producer operating independently in this country, then the challenge shifts back to the problem of how increased productivity, reliability of delivery and profitability can be bought forth from the present mess. Under the new corporate structure, the performance of the mass car division will be much clearer for all to see. The question whether that exposure will improve performance remains entirely open.

of immigrants, students, workers, etc. like a shadow of opportunity. More than this, the Party is in a position of ways of corporate social responsibility looking at a pluribus in unum particular political pillars of our

THE EXTRADITION OF TERRORISTS

West German terrorists have been a European problem for some time. They were involved in the attack on the Opec meeting in Vienna. They attacked the West German embassy in Stockholm. They shot a Swiss border policeman. One of them had to be extradited from Greece. Twice recently they were involved in gun battles in Holland. And they left the body of Dr Schleyer, the kidnapped industrialist, in France, where they may also have been hiding. Now there is the problem of the extradition from France of Herr Croissant. Many seem also to have accepted his equally flimsy accusation that the prisoners who died in Stammheim goal were murdered and that he could suffer the same fate if extradited. There is at the moment no evidence to support this view and much to counter it.

Just why a number of Frenchmen should be so anxious to believe and propagate this picture of Germany is not clear. They may hope to tap the vein of anti-German nationalism that is always present in France, or it may suit their own political purposes to argue that a successful capitalist system such as West Germany's must inevitably be repressive. They are, however, making a rather curious and discouraging spectacle of themselves. Fortunately, Mitterrand, the Socialist leader, has not associated himself with the anti-German campaigns, and the Government made an important gesture when it sent the Attorney General into court to support the case for extradition, but on the whole the amount of intellectual and political resistance has not been quite as firm as West German public opinion bad a right to expect.

The result is a certain amount

of unhappiness in Germany. But the case has also brought to attention a wider problem which could give trouble in the future. The difference between a criminal and political offence is not, and probably cannot be, entirely clear. There is a long tradition in Europe, and especially in France, of granting special consideration to political prisoners and refugees, even if they have been involved in violence. The French extradition law of 1927 has a very vague phrase about crimes which have a "political character". This is a difficult matter for a court to decide. Anyone can claim a political motive for a crime, and the German terrorists do so, even though their political aims have become more and more obscure.

But the nature of the state against which they are operating must also be relevant, though this also stretches the normal competence of a court. If West Germany really were a fascist state there might be a different attitude towards acts of violence against it, and towards the extradition of people accused of committing such acts. This is why Herr Croissant has been so anxious in court to make his case against the West German state. It is also another reason why the decision has political as well as judicial significance. To extradite a German terrorist to Germany is a gesture of confidence in German democracy and justice.

CEMENTING THE PLURAL SOCIETY

Lord Scarman's passion for a United Kingdom Bill of Rights is well known, and he has used his considerable intellectual and persuasive skills to mount a variety of arguments in its support. He has now added a new one. His lecture to the Minority Rights Group yesterday concentrated on the issue of reverse discrimination, which, in the form of the Bakke case, is causing such anguish in the United States at present.

Lord Scarman made two basic points. First, he stressed the necessity for ensuring that any legislation which, as he put it, loaded the law in favour of disadvantaged groups, be temporary. Ultimately, he argued, individual rights ought to prevail over group rights, and any law which derogated from that principle ought to remain in force for as little time as circumstances allowed. He cited the Race Relations Act, and particularly those sections which render lawful positive discrimination in favour of minority groups. No exception can be taken to his views on that point. He then went on to suggest that only by a Bill of

emphasis where it should be on the rights of the members of the majority, the public would then properly appreciate that restrictions imposed on other people's freedom in the name of favouring the disadvantaged were no more than expedients to be discarded "once the objective of genuine equality is achieved".

But if that objective was, in practice, achieved, there would be no need for the Race Relations Act. Its abolition or non-use would not depend on there being a Bill of Rights saying that the measure was a temporary one.

There is some force in the argument that a Bill would state publicly principles which are now only implied. The very fact, however, that anti-discrimination laws exist is a clear statement that the general principle governing our society is, and must continue to be, equality for all its members. To spell out the principle may be of psychological help, but that alone does not warrant a Bill of Rights. There are more persuasive arguments for that, most of which Lord Scarman has himself deployed in the past.

completely entitled to his "delight" at the further weakening of the ILO and at the United States decision to withdraw from that organization (although it can be surmised that not even the Americans are "delighted" at what they have done!). However, he might well be endorsing the sentiments of a group with whom he would not normally consider himself in great sympathy.

It is very unfortunate that Sir Robert is hitching his comments to the fact that he came to an ILO conference as a Jamaican employer's representative in 1957 and, as far as I know, has not since then attended any sessions of the International Labour Conference. The employers' group of Jamaica would not have, in 1957, advocated the withdrawal of the United States from the ILO and has not since then, nor up to the present time, wished for such a move. I am completely unaware, too, of any such withdrawal sentiments being expressed by either the past or the present Government of Jamaica or, indeed, by any of Jamaica's main trade unions.

Jamaica has benefited greatly by

its membership of the ILO by having at present a very healthy social security programme, a very good vocational training institute and by having well organized management development and trade union education programmes. The island has benefited very greatly, too, by its close association with and help from the United States. There can be no reason at all for wishing to see the ILO and the United States parting company; the hope is that, to the mutual benefit of both parties, there will be a resumed membership before long.

On a personal note, I must say that I was very shocked at the light-headed irresponsibility of Sir Robert's letter.

Yours faithfully,
S. P. WALKER

US withdrawal from ILO

From Mr S. B. Chambers

Sir, My attention has been drawn to Sir Robert L. M. Kirkwood's letter on the subject of the United States withdrawal from the ILO published in your issue of November 3. Sir Robert is, of course,

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Settling firemen's pay and conditions

From Mr W. A. Wiseman

Sir, The way in which firemen's pay and conditions of service have been in the past and are now being settled leaves a great deal to be desired.

An initial point is that no clear distinction is being made between an average industrial working week and the firemen's 48-hour working week.

The firemen's 48 hours is 48 hours on duty. In many brigades, particularly in the Shire Counties, this means that, for instance on a night shift, a fireman may enjoy a virtually uninterrupted night's sleep.

Whatever the inconvenience of being on duty for 48 hours may be,

it bears no resemblance to a normal 40-hour working week.

The pay and conditions of firemen are settled nationally by L.C. Fire Service National Council. This is not acceptable to the Government, yet in attempting to prevent the current firemen's strike the Government, with a best token reference only to the local authorities who, in the end, are the firemen's employers, gave way,

much to the Fire Brigades Union's surprise, on the 48-hour week with an unconditional offer to reduce it to 42 hours. The effect of this is that in due course 5,000 more public sector workers will be employed at a time when Government expenditure should be reduced. This is an example of how efficiency in the public sector is given away for short-term political advantage.

If the firemen had accepted the 42-hour week and called off their strike, it would have meant that Mr Kees could say that the Government had now breached the 10 per cent rule, and yet built in further inflation.

There are in effect three parties to the firemen's dispute, the Government, local authorities and the firemen; two of them should be speaking with one voice and they are not. There are other difficulties in the present machinery. The majority of firemen are not employed by the Shire Counties, in the Shire Counties, but very recently an efficient form of fire cover was provided by full-time firemen offering their services in their own spare time to help out the brigade. The Fire Brigades Union demanded the NJC to remove this option. In effect, firemen may now do more things in their spare time but make use of their skills so expensively acquired. The NJC decision was not popular with many men in our county, as it reduced their earnings.

Everyone who has had anything to do with the Fire Brigades appreciates the courage, the skill and the devotion to duty of firemen to whom the community owes a great debt. They may well have a good case for a strike with the firemen, the miners and all the others, but this dispute must raise the question as to whether the unions really do a useful job, both for the nation and their members. It should not be forgotten that this strike was called by a union conference against the advice of their own executive. It also highlights whether the present machinery for negotiating pay and conditions is the best that can be devised. One possibility for change would be to negotiate differences within a national framework for firemen in Shire County brigades as opposed to city brigades, but these are not matters for detailed discussion in this letter.

Yours sincerely,

IAN MCMORRAN, 14 Brynmead Road, Maidenhead.

November 15.

Yours faithfully,

W. A. WISEMAN, The Mill House, Bray.

Maidenhead.

November 15.

Yours faithfully,

VALERIE A. ELLISTON, 11 Irton Road, Colchester.

Essex.

November 14.

Yours faithfully,

FRANCIS R. E. EDGE, 1 Edge Court, Maidenhead.

November 15.

Yours faithfully,

ROBERT R. HORLEY, 154

November 15.

Yours faithfully,

RONALD HARRIS, 1 Millbank SW1.

November 15.

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Apology for Crossman Diaries statement

Thompson v Jonathan Cape Ltd and Another

Before Mr Justice Bristow

Miss Jean Thompson, a senior statistician in the Registrar General's Office, received an apology over a passage in the recently published third volume of the *Crossman Diaries* which referred to "a fascist nest" in the office. Miss Thompson had sued the defendants, Jonathan Cape Ltd and Hamish Hamilton Ltd, the joint publishers, for libel.

Mr Peter Bowsher for Miss Thompson; Mr Tom Shields for the publishers.

Mr Bowsher said that Miss Thompson was a senior statistician and the only woman of equivalent rank in the office. She was responsible directly to the Registrar General for making extrapolations from population statistics.

In volume 1 of the *Crossman Diaries* Mr Richard Crossman stated that in 1969 he "had been told that there was a fascist nest in the Registrar General's Office" and that while at first he did not believe the allegation he later became convinced after he had spoken with the statistician.

Mr Shields said that the defendants wished to apologize for the reference to Miss Thompson by reference to which had been taken to suggest that her work was coloured by any political or other bias. The defendants also wished to make it clear that any such suggestion were now withdrawn as being entirely misconceived. They had agreed to pay Miss Thompson's legal costs.

These allegations were the gravest possible reflection upon her integrity as a statistician and as a public servant charged with

the responsibility of advising ministers and informing the public in a most important field.

There was not a word of truth in those allegations, either in relation to her or to the staff for whom she was responsible.

Miss Thompson was a demographer of international repute and of the highest integrity. She was certainly not a fascist and indeed she was not a member of any political party. Her moderate political views were known only to herself and her work had never been influenced by any political or other personal views.

The *Crossman Diaries* might come to be of reference for a very considerable time as a source of contemporary history. Miss Thompson was accordingly concerned that the record should be put straight and for that reason began the present proceedings.

She had not been concerned to obtain compensation and since the defendants were willing to apologize and to withdraw the allegations made against her, she was content not to proceed with the action.

Mr Bowsher said that the defendants wished to apologize for the reference to which had been taken to suggest that her work was coloured by any political or other bias. The defendants also wished to make it clear that any such suggestion were now withdrawn as being entirely misconceived. They had agreed to pay Miss Thompson's legal costs.

Solicitors: Payne, Hicks, Beach & Co; Palsler & Co.

Brassington and Others v Cauldon Wholesale Ltd
Before Mr Justice Bristow, Mr L. D. Cowan and Mrs D. Lancaster
(Judgment delivered Nov 11)

Sections 53, 54 and 56 of the Employment Protection Act, 1975, which came into force on 1 January 1976, give an employee the right not to have his employment terminated by his employer for the purpose of (a) preventing . . . him from being . . . a member of an independent trade union . . . were considered for the first time by the Employment Appeal Tribunal.

The tribunal held that the law of a discriminatory monetary award

made to the employee is compensation for him, not a fine on the employer.

The Appeal Tribunal allowed an appeal by Mr David Brassington and two other employees of Cauldon Wholesale Ltd, who were members of Shropshire Industrial Tribunals, which granted them a declaration that their right under section 53 of the Act had been infringed, and ordered the company to pay them normal wages in respect of the day they attended the tribunal hearing but awarded no compensation.

Mr Eldred Tabachnick for the employees. The company did not appear and was not represented.

Mr Justice Bristow said that in May 1976, the company gave its workforce a rise of 16 a week thinking it was obliged to do so by law. On discovering that there was no such legal obligation, it substituted a smaller increase.

In September 1976, the three employees, with nine others, joined Transport and General

Workers' Union. A union official asked the company for recognition and negotiating rights. The company had taken legal advice at either level.

The object of Parliament in conferring the right in section 53 right was clearly to discourage employers from unfairly trying to prevent union activity in their undertakings. To effect that object, some sanction was necessary.

Parliament could have chosen an expressly penal sanction, made infringement of the right a criminal offence, and provided for its punishment.

The tribunal held that the law of a discriminatory monetary award

made to the employee is compensation for him, not a fine on the employer.

The tribunal held that, since the infringement was only a threat, it was not just and equitable to grant compensation without actual pecuniary loss.

The tribunal held that the employer

should pay them their wages in respect of the day spent at the tribunal.

Subject to that, the tribunal

did not impose any penalty on the employers.

It looked as if the tribunal had taken the view that it had a discretion to award compensation to the employee if it thought it just and equitable, and otherwise to

award compensation only in respect of pecuniary loss. That was its view. It was wrong.

Compensation had to be of such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable in all the circumstances having regard to the infringement of the section 53 right by the employer's action, and of any loss attributable to it.

Mr Justice Bristow said that the

tribunal had to decide two

important questions of law. Did

making a threat amount to action

under section 53? If so,

how was compensation to be

assessed under section 56(1)?

It concluded that "action" included

threats and that the appropriate

compensation for the infringement

of section 53 was a fine on the employer.

There was no cross-appeal by the company against findings that a discriminatory monetary award

substituted for a smaller increase

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Transport and General

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Compensation was for injury, whether to one's pocket or otherwise, sustained as the result of the infringement of the right, nothing more or less. Compensation was for the injury sustained, not for the injury caused by such an infringement. There was no award to show an injury, but if that were done compensation could be awarded.

Counsel rightly said that "loss" was apt to mean what one suffered in one's pocket. The tribunal was entitled to do so, and it did, for the injury caused by such an infringement. The employers had incurred in going to the tribunal by way of expenses but not to order the company to pay them a day's wages. That would not be a loss attributable to the employer's action and would amount to a "loss" of one day's wages.

Compensation meant compensation of the injured party for injury, not punishment for the person committing the injury. Injury in one's pocket; and apart from the amount to compensate for that, the compensation must be just and equitable. That was the view. It was wrong.

Compensation had to be of such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable in all the circumstances having regard to the infringement of the section 53 right by the employer's action, and of any loss attributable to it.

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The loss was to include any expense reasonably incurred in consequence of the employer's action or any benefit that might reasonably have been expected but for it.

Counsel rightly said that "loss" was apt to mean what one suffered in one's pocket. The tribunal was entitled to do so, and it did, for the injury caused by such an infringement. The employers had incurred in going to the tribunal by way of expenses but not to order the company to pay them a day's wages. That would not be a loss attributable to the employer's action and would amount to a "loss" of one day's wages.

Compensation meant compensation of the injured party for injury, not punishment for the person committing the injury. Injury in one's pocket; and apart from the amount to compensate for that, the compensation must be just and equitable. That was the view. It was wrong.

Compensation had to be of such amount as the tribunal considered just and equitable in all the circumstances having regard to the infringement of the section 53 right by the employer's action, and of any loss attributable to it.

Mr Eldred Tabachnick for the employees. The company did not appear and was not represented.

Mr Justice Bristow said that the

tribunal had to decide two

important questions of law. Did

making a threat amount to action

under section 53? If so,

how was compensation to be

assessed under section 56(1)?

It concluded that "action" included

threats and that the appropriate

compensation for the infringement

of section 53 was a fine on the employer.

There was no cross-appeal by the company against findings that a discriminatory monetary award

substituted for a smaller increase

in September 1976, the three em-

ployees, with nine others, joined

Transport and General

to have caused injury to the individual other than injury to his pocket. The stress engendered by such a situation might easily cause injury to health. Compensation might be awarded if a deep and sincere wish to join a union, with all the benefits of health and security which that might entail, was frustrated. If an employer's action against an employee resulted in a union failing in respect of a recognition issue under section 11 that might be an injury which warranted compensation. Parliament had not categorized injuries more than the the tribunal might be awarded. But the employee who claimed compensation must first satisfy the industrial tribunal that his rights had been infringed—it he showed that and no more a mandatory declaration might be given. The tribunal might also show injury resulting from the employer's action which infringed his right before the discreditable remedy of an award of compensation was played.

The appeal would be allowed and the case sent back for re-hearing before a differently constituted tribunal.

Solicitors: Paterson & Brewer.

Rights to residence make charitable trust invalid

In re Martin, deceased

Before Mr Justice Walton

Judgment delivered Nov 10

A trust to create a home for old people, and a right for either or both of the testator's daughters to reside there, was held to be a valid charitable trust.

Mr Justice Walton was given a judgment at a summons taken out by National Westminster Bank Ltd, as executors, against Mrs Gladys Emma Martin, widow of the testator, and her two daughters, Miss Delphine Gladys Martin and Mrs June Diana Kempsell, and the Attorney General.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE November 16: Sir Peter Carey (Permanent Secretary, Department of Industry) had the honour of being received by The Queen this morning.

His Excellency Dr Zdenek Cernik was received in audience by Her Majesty and presented the Letters of Recall of his Ambassador and his own Letters of Credence as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary from the Czechoslovak Socialist Republic to the Court of St James's.

The engagement was announced by the following members of the Embassy, who had the honour of being presented to The Queen: Dr Frantisek Telcik (Minister Counsellor), Mr Martin Salter (Minister Counsellor), Colonel Miroslav Dvorak (Minister and Air Attaché), Mr Frantisek Pavlis (First Secretary), Mr Jiri Novotny (Second Secretary), Mr Jiri Skrivan (Third Secretary), Mr Jiri Skrivan (Third Secretary), Mr Milos Polotny (Attaché).

Madame Cernik had the honour of being received by Her Majesty. Sir Michael Pallen was named Under-Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, who had the honour of being received by The Queen, was presented to the Gentlemen of the Household in Waiting were in attendance.

Marshal of the Royal Air Force Sir Neil Cameron had an audience of Her Majesty upon his appointment as Chief of the Air Staff. Colonel Samuel Enderby, the honour of being received by The Queen and delivered up his Stick of Office upon relinquishing his appointment as Standard Bearer of Her Majesty's Bodyguard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms.

Brigadier the Hon. Richard Hamilton-Russell had the honour of being received by The Queen upon his appointment as Standard Bearer of Her Majesty's Bodyguard of the Honourable Corps of Gentlemen-at-Arms, and received his Stick of Office.

Sir John Cowen (Governor-General of Australia) had the honour of being received by The Queen when Her Majesty invested him with the insignia of a Knight Grand Cross of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George.

Sir Zeeman and Lady Cowen had the honour of being invited to luncheon with The Queen.

KENSINGTON PALACE November 16: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester was present this evening at a Reception given by the Mayor of London at The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea (Alderman and Mrs P. H. Methuen) at the Town Hall, Kensington.

Miss June Egerton-Warburton was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE November 16: The Duke of Kent today visited the factory of Molles at Sanderson and Mole, Ltd, in the Royal Borough of Greenwich.

In the evening His Royal Highness President of the Royal Household Association attended the Warwick Cup, a competition for the Royal and Amateur Divisions of the Royal Yacht Squadron, Tynemouth, and Lord Wimborne Studious.

Lieutenant-Colonel T. E. M. Sharp and Miss C. S. Scott

The engagement is announced between Trevor J. M. Sharp, Coldstream Guards, and Carolyn, daughter of Mr and Mrs Edward Scott and Mrs Peggy Scott of Euston, London, SW1.

Captain P. M. A. Smeth and Miss G. M. Durrant

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of Major Smeeth, RA (red), and Mrs Smeeth, of Sheerwood, Tenterbury Wells and Galt, daughter of Mr and Mrs Andrew Durrant of Wellington Court, Tenterbury Wells, Gloucestershire.

Mr F. Foster and Miss L. Mostyn

The marriage took place at Kilkenny Castle, New South Wales, Australia, on November 12 of Mr Francis Foster, of Park House, Drumoak, Banchory, Kincardineshire, and Miss Louise Mostyn, of Broad Leys, Lydeard, near Taunton, Somerset.

The Mayor of Kensington and Chelsea

Princess Alice Duchess of Gloucester and Princess Alice, Countess of Athlone attended the reception given by the Mayor and Chelsea in celebration of the birthday of the Prince of Wales (November 14) and the late Jawaharlal Nehru.

The guests were received by the Hon. Mrs J. E. Jessel.

The marriage took place quietly in London on November 16 of Mr Donald Gomme, of Lausanne, Switzerland, to the Hon. Mrs J. E. Jessel.

Mr F. Foster and Miss L. Mostyn

The marriage took place at Kilkenny Castle, New South Wales, Australia, on November 12 of Mr Francis Foster, of Park House, Drumoak, Banchory, Kincardineshire, and Miss Louise Mostyn, of Broad Leys, Lydeard, near Taunton, Somerset.

Mr Charles Douglas Ferguson Phillips Brocklebank of Mackintosh, of 10 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1, left his home, Hare Hill, part of the estate and £50,000 to the National Trust. Other estates include (not, before tax paid: not tax disclosed): Mrs Elizabeth, of Cressing, Essex, £165,000; Clewley, Mrs Evelyn 'Amy' of Hythe, Kent, £131,250; Mrs. D. W. Mrs. Marie Jeanne of East Horling, £105,265; Lloyd, Mrs. John E. of Bentle, £230,241; Pashill, Mr Samuel Frederick, of Quinch, his home, director of R. & J. Lawrence, £234,034; R. & J. Lawrence, £234,034; Great Budlow, £22,222.

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Stock Exchange Prices

Subdued session

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, Nov 14. Dealings end, Nov 25. 5 Consign Day, Nov 26. Settlement Day, Dec 6

5 Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

1976/77		1977/78		1978/79		1979/80		1980/81		1981/82		1982/83		1983/84		1984/85		1985/86		1986/87		1987/88		1988/89		1989/90		1990/91		1991/92		1992/93		1993/94		1994/95		1995/96		1996/97		1997/98		1998/99		1999/2000		2000/2001		2001/2002		2002/2003		2003/2004		2004/2005		2005/2006		2006/2007		2007/2008		2008/2009		2009/2010		2010/2011		2011/2012		2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018		2018/2019		2019/2020		2020/2021		2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024		2024/2025		2025/2026		2026/2027		2027/2028		2028/2029		2029/2030		2030/2031		2031/2032		2032/2033		2033/2034		2034/2035		2035/2036		2036/2037		2037/2038		2038/2039		2039/2040		2040/2041		2041/2042		2042/2043		2043/2044		2044/2045		2045/2046		2046/2047		2047/2048		2048/2049		2049/2050		2050/2051		2051/2052		2052/2053		2053/2054		2054/2055		2055/2056		2056/2057		2057/2058		2058/2059		2059/2060		2060/2061		2061/2062		2062/2063		2063/2064		2064/2065		2065/2066		2066/2067		2067/2068		2068/2069		2069/2070		2070/2071		2071/2072		2072/2073		2073/2074		2074/2075		2075/2076		2076/2077		2077/2078		2078/2079		2079/2080		2080/2081		2081/2082		2082/2083		2083/2084		2084/2085		2085/2086		2086/2087		2087/2088		2088/2089		2089/2090		2090/2091		2091/2092		2092/2093		2093/2094		2094/2095		2095/2096		2096/2097		2097/2098		2098/2099		2099/20100		20100/20101		20101/20102		20102/20103		20103/20104		20104/20105		20105/20106		20106/20107		20107/20108		20108/20109		20109/20110		20110/20111		20111/20112		20112/20113		20113/20114		20114/20115		20115/20116		20116/20117		20117/20118		20118/20119		20119/20120		20120/20121		20121/20122		20122/20123		20123/20124		20124/20125		20125/20126		20126/20127		20127/20128		20128/20129		20129/20130		20130/20131		20131/20132		20132/20133		20133/20134		20134/20135		20135/20136		20136/20137		20137/20138		20138/20139		20139/20140		20140/20141		20141/20142		20142/20143		20143/20144		20144/20145		20145/20146		20146/20147		20147/20148		20148/20149		20149/20150		20150/20151		20151/20152		20152/20153		20153/20154		20154/20155		20155/20156		20156/20157		20157/20158		20158/20159		20159/20160		20160/20161		20161/20162		20162/20163		20163/20164		20164/20165		20165/20166		20166/20167		20167/20168		20168/20169		20169/20170		20170/20171		20171/20172		20172/20173		20173/20174		20174/20175		20175/20176		20176/20177		20177/20178		20178/20179		20179/20180		20180/20181		20181/20182		20182/20183		20183/20184		20184/20185		20185/20186		20186/20187		20187/20188		20188/20189		20189/20190		20190/20191		20191/20192		20192/20193		20193/20194		20194/20195		20195/20196		20196/20197		20197/20198		20198/20199		20199/20200		20200/20201		20201/20202		20202/20203		20203/20204		20204/20205		20205/20206		20206/20207		20207/20208		20208/20209		20209/20210		20210/20211		20211/20212		20212/20213		20213/20214		20214/20215		20215/20216		20216/20217		20217/20218		20218/20219		20219/20220		20220/20221		20221/20222		20222/20223		20223/20224		20224/20225		20225/20226		20226/20227		20227/20228		20228/20229		20229/20230		20230/20231		20231/20232		20232/20233		20233/20234		20234/20235		20235/20236		20236/20237		20237/20238		20238/20239		20239/20240		20240/20241		20241/20242		20242/20243		20243/20244		20244/20245		20245/20246		20246/20247		20247/20248		20248/20249		20249/20250		20250/20251		20251/20252		20252/20253		20253/20254		20254/20255		20255/20256		20256/20257		20257/20258		20258/20259		20259/20260		20260/20261		20261/20262		20262/20263		20263/20264		20264/20265		20265/20266		20266/20267		20267/20268		20268/20269		20269/20270		20270/20271		20271/20272		20272/20273		20273/20274		20274/20275		20275/20276		20276/20277		20277/20278		20278/20279		20279/20280		20280/20281		20281/20282		20282/20283		20283/20284		20284/20285		20285/20286		20286/20287		20287/20288		20288/20289		20289/20290		20290/20291		20291/20292		20292/20293		20293/20294		20294/20295		20295/20296		20296/20297		20297/20298		20298/20299		20299/20200		20200/20201		20201/20202		20202/20203		20203/20204		20204/20205		20205/20206		20206/20207		20207/20208		20208/20209		20209/20210		20210/20211		20211/20212		20212/20213		20213/20214		20214/20215		20215/20216		20216/20217		20217/20218		20218/20219		20219/20220		20220/20221		20221/20222		20222/20223		20223/20224		20224/20225		20225/20226		20226/20227		20227/20228		20228/20229		20229/20230		20230/20231		20231/20232		20232/20233		20233/20234		20234/20235		20235/20236		20236/20237		20237/20238		20238/20239		20239/20240		20240/20241		20241/20242		20242/20243		20243/20244		20244/20245		20245/20246		20246/20247		20247/20248		20248/20249		20249/20250		20250/20251		20251/20252		20252/20253		20253/20254		20254/20255		20255/20256		20256/20257		20257/20258		20258/20259		20259/20260		20260/20261		20261/20262		20262/20263		20263/20264		20264/20265		20265/20266		20266/20267		20267/20268		20268/20269		20269/20270		20270/20271		20271/20272		20272/20273		20273/20274		20274/20275		20275/20276		20276/20277		20277/20278		20278/20279		20279/20280		20280/20281		20281/20282		20282/20283		20283/20284		20284/20285		20285/20286		20286/20287		20287	

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THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS



British Leyland decentralized into four separate companies

By Clifford Webb

Mr Michael Edwards, the former Chloride Group chief who was appointed chairman and chief executive of British Leyland three weeks ago, yesterday announced management and structural changes aimed at further decentralizing the struggling state-owned motor group.

He also hinted at more changes to come.

There are few big surprises in the new set-up, bearing in mind Mr Edwards's known preference for independent, profit accountable subsidiaries.

The four existing business groups—Leyland Cars, Leyland Truck & Bus, Leyland International and Leyland Special Products—are becoming registered limited liability companies under their existing managing directors.

As such they will have to return properly documented annual accounts, a move which will effectively end the masking of individual performance in corporate returns.

Mr Edwards himself will be chairman of the new Special Products. There the chair will go to Mr Alex Park, British Leyland's former chief executive and now an executive vice-chairman.

The present 13-strong main board appears to be replaced by a smaller seven-man board. The present heads of the four operating companies lose their seats and only two of the five outside board members are retained: Sir Robert Clark, chief executive of Hill Samuel and Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of Lehman International Incorporated.

Alcon Copisarow, former director of McKinsey & Co., Mr John Gardner chief executive of the Laird Group and Lord Greenhill of Harrow, the former head of the Diplomatic Service, all lose their seats.

Lord Greenhill will act in an advisory

Leading article, Page 15
Financial Editor,
Business Diary and
British Leyland devolution, page 21

years by Ford of Europe. He will chair the advisory board and two of the panels himself.

The advisory board comprises the heads of the four operating companies with a levelling of corporate staff. It will provide a forum at which all overall problems and opportunities can be debated and action programmes put forward.

A strategy panel will determine how best to implement the decisions and policies of the main board. Its membership has still to be announced. A management resources panel will decide on appointments, career development, utilization and succession of key executives. Its membership, also, has still to be announced.

An investment panel chaired by Mr Park will review and recommend capital expenditure plans and budgets that exceed £100m for the four subsidiary companies. Members will be drawn from the advisory board. Heads of subsidiaries will not be able to vote on their own proposals.

Mr Park, as an executive vice-chairman, will become responsible for central operations including finance, corporate planning, legal services and audit.

Mr John McKay, Mr Edwards's former operations chief at Chloride, joins British Leyland as communications adviser to the new chairman.

Yesterday's announcement also confirmed reports that Mr Edwards will run the corporation from Nuffield House in Piccadilly and will close the present headquarters block in Marylebone Road. A number of corporate staff will move to the new headquarters in the next few weeks. Others will be offered posts in the operating companies.

The spectre of redundancies is raised by the statement that the remainder will continue "for the time being" in Marylebone Road.

Directors responsibilities still to be spelt out

By Maurice Corriss and Edward Townsend



**Mr Leslie Murphy,
NEB chairman:**
"We welcome the
plans and these
have been endorsed
unanimously
by the board"

Guidelines revision of the articles of association of British Leyland is expected to follow yesterday's announcement.

Bankers and creditors are also

likely to seek early clarification of the responsibilities of directors of the new companies. Minority shareholders holding about 5 per cent of British Leyland's equity against the National Enterprise Board's 95 per cent holding will also need to be consulted.

Although Mr Edwards intends to turn the four new subsidiaries into decentralized profit centres, his legal advisers are still faced with the thorny question of directorial duties under company law and their relationship to creditors.

Guidelines provided for the NEB, which with bankers funds the present Leyland company, formed 2½ years ago, make it clear that there is no government guarantee to creditors of any NEB subsidiary unless the Government has undertaken a specific commitment in relation to particular debts.

The position is that the NEB's own relationship to Leyland creditors must have regard to the practice of companies in the private sector. The NEB, however, has power to guarantee obligations incurred by Leyland.

The accounts of the NEB were qualified by its auditors earlier this year by a note that

the accounts had been prepared on the normal going concern basis which assumed British Leyland would continue to obtain finance under the long-term Rydon plan. The Rydon plan is to be done away with and the new chairman will clearly be putting forward revised ideas for future investment and a new corporate strategy document.

Mr Murphy will be seeking clarification about the company's capital needs and investment strategy. Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, has not intervened in the initial shake-up by Mr Edwards leaving approval to the NEB, the NEB's corporate plan.

The Treasury minister explains that it would not be practicable in Leyland's case for the Government to insist on the achievement of fully competitive standards of performance throughout the motor group before further public funds were released.

Unilever shares dip after profits setback

By Our Financial Staff

Since the IMF's annual meeting in Washington in September, various possible candidates have been mentioned for the post, but it appears that M de Larosière's appointment as successor to Dr Johannes Witteveen will be decided before the end of the year.

Against analysts' estimates of between £160m to £180m profits before tax for the three months, the figures emerged 16 per cent lower at £153.1m, while sales rose 10 per cent to £241.8m, largely as a result of price increases.

For the first nine months of the current year, profits were down 5 per cent at £45.1m, and earnings per share were 7 per cent lower.

The company says that in comparison with the same period in 1976 the September quarter was poor. Overall volume rose by only 1 per cent and there was a decline in Europe. Disappointing results were received in ice cream and animal feeds as a result of the wet summer, and oil milling was badly affected by reduced demand.

North America, however, accounting for a third of turnover, benefited both from higher tea prices and a switch from coffee to tea by American drinkers as a result of the even dearer coffee.

The declared interim dividend for the whole concern is maintained at the 1976 level of 11.6p per share gross, but because of United Kingdom dividend restraint only 7.1p gross is payable to British shareholders. The balance will be added to the existing fund to be paid out when restrictions are lifted. This now amounts to 31p.

Financial Editor, page 21

Barclays cuts personal loans rate to 14.93 pc

Barclays Bank is reducing the interest rate on personal loans. From next Monday the rate will be 14.93 per cent, against the 16.65 per cent that has been charged since last April. Since then base rate has dropped by a third to 6 per cent.

Frenchman tipped for IMF

Washington, Nov 16.—America favours the appointment of M Jacques de Larosière, the French Treasury Director, as managing director of the International Monetary Fund, United States officials said today.

With this backing and that of other major industrial nations it is expected that M de Larosière's appointment as successor to Dr Johannes Witteveen will be decided before the end of the year.

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Manufacturers of Wylex Electrical Products



Main points from the circulated Statement of Mr. G. R. C. McDowell, for the year ended 30th June 1977.

* There has been a healthy growth of turnover, with a corresponding rise in profit figures, despite the economic problems which have beset the nation. Compared with the previous year an uplift of 45% in sales has been achieved to give a record profit before tax figure of £1,284,938. With these improved results the Directors recommend the payment of the maximum Dividend allowed, giving a Final Dividend of 12.5863p per share which, together with the Interim Dividend of 4p, makes a total distribution of 16.5863p per share. This Final Dividend takes into consideration the latest tax adjustment whereby the standard rate of tax was reduced from 35% to 34%.

* Export sales have shown a substantial improvement over the previous year, amounting to a 103% increase in turnover.

* In November 1976 the Company acquired its first subsidiary, Clifton Engineers (Lytham) Ltd, who are engaged in general metal fabrication; in particular the manufacture of cabinets for electrical control gear. This production capacity will provide manufacturing assistance for our projected expanded range of products. John Nissim Ltd, a small printing company associated with Clifton Engineers, was also acquired.

* In my Statement last year I mentioned that a Director was being made responsible for the development programme and this has been carried out. This has allowed for a considerable increase in the development activity of the Company. As a result we will be in a position to introduce a range of 3 phase distribution boards during the current financial year. The manufacture of these products utilises the resources of our Clifton subsidiary as well as those of the Wylex production lines. Their introduction will increase the Company's involvement in commercial and industrial markets, expanding the Company's base into wider fields than we have traditionally held.

1977 1976
Profit before taxation £1,284,938 £1,327,580
Taxation 2953.181 £700,258
Profit after taxation £911,757 £627,322
Dividends per share (net) 16.5863p 14.93p

Signs point to increase in wages bill well above government limit

By David Blake

Average earnings increased by only 0.3 per cent in September; but it is now clear that the increase in the total wages bill is likely to be significantly above the 10 per cent target, which the Government has set for the present wages round.

Four out of five workers who would have been expected to settle in the period since August 1, when the new pay round began, have hung back from agreement notified to the Department of Employment.

Of those who have settled—31 per cent of the total workforce—25 per cent have done so within the government guidelines.

So far, the Department says,

AVERAGE EARNINGS

The following are the index numbers for average earnings of all employees in all industries and services covered by the monthly earnings inquiry released by the Department of Employment:

1976

Oct 1976

Nov 1976

Dec 1976

Jan 1977

Feb 1977

March 1977

April 1977

May 1977

June 1977

July 1977

Aug 1977

Sept 1977

Oct 1977

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TUC says textile free-for-all can ruin Europe's clothing industries

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, Nov 16

European textile trade unions gave warning here today that any further concessions by the EEC to exporting countries would "ruin for good" the Community's clothing industry.

After talks with Mr Tran Van Thinh, the EEC's chief textile negotiator, the unions issued a declaration that continued refusal by the main textile suppliers to compromise "should be remedied by unilateral restrictive measures from the beginning of next year."

Mr Peter Lowman, of Britain's National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers, told journalists that the TUC had made clear to the Government that if current negotiations failed and the EEC was not prepared to take protective action, national quota should be imposed under article 19 of

the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade.

"A free-for-all next year would be ruinous for the European textile industry," Mr Lowman said. Trade unions were agreed, however, that action by the EEC as a whole would be preferable to national measures, which should be kept as a last resort.

At a press conference, Mr Tran said the European Commission had already begun redistributing to smaller suppliers some "small quantities" of the import quota of 132,000 tonnes originally offered to Hongkong, the biggest supplier of textiles to the Community, accounting for 15 per cent of total imports.

Hongkong broke off talks with the EEC last week after refusing to accept the Community's offer as a basis for negotiation. Mr Tran said:

"The longer we wait for them to return, the smaller their share of the cake will be."

In a clear reference to Hongkong, South Korea and Brazil, the trade unions said that the EEC's markets had been mainly disrupted by "major exporting countries which wrongly claim the benefit from developing country status" and whose competitiveness depended "exclusively upon exploitation of their labour force".

In such countries, the unions said, industrialisation had caused unemployment in importing countries, since most of their textile output was destined for export, without in any way improving the living standards of their own populations. The only people who benefited were investors.

Mr Tran urged India, the EEC's second-biggest supplier, to come to the negotiating table before it was too late.

Mr Peter Lowman, of Britain's National Union of Hosiery and Knitwear Workers, told journalists that the TUC had made clear to the Government that if current negotiations failed and the EEC was not prepared to take protective action, national quota should be imposed under article 19 of

Steel unions spur for incentives

By Our Labour Editor

Steel union leaders yesterday deplored the state industry's slowness in reviving productivity bargaining, put on ice by the Government's pay policy two years ago.

Mr Booth, Secretary of State for Employment, has given the go-ahead for self-financing incentive schemes to be negotiated and the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation has criticised the British Steel Corporation for "dragging its feet" on the issue.

Mr Bill Sirs, general secretary of the ISTC, said his lay executive's anger over British Steel's negotiating tardiness might spill over into a refusal to cooperate on "economy" measures designed to reduce the industry's enormous financial losses.

The productivity bargaining issue becomes all the more pressing because as pay claim for 70,000 workers employed under the heavy steel industry agreement is being drawn up on November 30. British Steel has offered 6 per cent plus incremental rises for 26,000 white-collar workers. This has been rejected.

Mr Sirs said last night that his executive's disappointment over the lack of progress in productivity bargaining "will obviously motivate their actions" in today's debate on the BSC proposals to transfer the diminishing workload to low-cost plants from unprofitable steel works.

Steel chief upset MPs, page 19



Mr Ian Findlay
named as
Lloyd's chairman

Mr Ian Findlay, chairman of Sedgwick Forbes, the insurance brokers, has been appointed chairman of Lloyd's with effect from January 1.

Mr Findlay, who is 59, takes over from Sir Havelock Hudson, who is stepping down after three years in office. He has been a vice-president of the Corporation of Insurance Brokers for several years, and was chairman of the Lloyd's Insurance Brokers' Association in 1969.

He has been a member of the Lloyd's Committee since 1971.

At a meeting of the committee yesterday Mr Adam Gray and Mr Charles Gibb were elected deputy chairman.

Banks' note of dissent on ED 19

By Nicholas Hirst

Clearing bankers will meet the Accounting Standards Committee, the rule-making body of the accountancy profession, early next month in an attempt to prevent their being forced to give information which would disclose their general bad debt provisions.

The requirements, which would lead to a highlighting of clearing banks' bad debt provisions, are contained within the proposed standard on deferred taxation, known as Exposure Draft 19.

While welcoming the general principle of ED 19, the committee should only be made for disclosure if the liability is likely to arise in the foreseeable future, the Committee of London Clearing Banks submitted a note of dissent to the Accounting Standards Committee during the exposure period of the draft standard.

The banks were particularly concerned with a requirement in the proposed standard to analyse and disclose, by way of a note, all potential amounts of bad debt.

"For reasons of banking prudence", the committee's note said, "and with the approval of the banks' auditors, these figures are not at present disclosed and it is strongly believed that to do so would be inappropriate and undesirable".

Agreement is not reached with the ASC, the bankers would have to risk having their accounts qualified

Traders stress urgency of fire risk

High Street fears for Christmas stocks

After three days without fire brigade protection, High Street traders are more apprehensive than ever about the threat of fire damage. Directives urging special vigilance have been sent to staff by most of the big retail multiple stores, including Marks & Spencer and Woolworth.

Trade groups headed by the Retail Consortium are keeping in close contact with members in case further action is required. A number of traders have informally discussed the possibility of collectively hiring fire fighting devices, and most have purchased new extinguishers, fire buckets, hoses and other portable apparatus.

But the main emphasis has been on prevention. Retailers, most of which have large and valuable supplies of goods in stock prior to Christmas, are particularly anxious to avoid any loss of business during a difficult trading year.

Security patrols within the existing 24-hour watch have been ordered by the Brent Cross Tenants Association. Mr Peter Stillwell, chairman of the association and manager of the Marks & Spencer branch at Brent Cross, says that the patrols have been asked to keep a particular watch to see that hazards such as piles of rubbish are not built up during the period of the strike.

Newly built stores and shopping centres such as Brent Cross have been equipped with automatic sprinkler systems, which in theory are capable of extinguishing fires quickly without brigade help. But even so the trade suffered 100 large fires last year, costing more than £25,000.

The collective loss to retailers as estimated by the Fire Protection Association, an organization financed by the insurance companies, whose function is to advise industry on protection measures amounted to £8.7m in 1976. Among the largest of these was suffered by the Asda hyper-

market group, at Llandudno in Wales, which was almost totally destroyed in August, 1976 losing all business for more than six months.

According to the FPA over 60 per cent of fires in business premises break out at night with the most likely cause of conflagration being electrical equipment such as space heaters, lights and wires and wool.

At Woolworth, where its Colchester branch suffered extensive fire damage some years ago, Mr Michael Sherlock, the sales director, said yesterday that every store in the group was now meticulously checked after closing time.

The hotel industry, which has collectively spent around £100m to comply with the 1971 Fire Protection Act suffered 26 large fires last year, according to the FPA. Total damage as calculated by insurers' assessors amounted to over £1.4m.

The Houses of Parliament, largest of the historic buildings said to be at risk, are also under fire.

Managers have asked to bring forward routine evacuation drills to the beginning of this week, and all staff members urged to keep a special watch on danger areas such as ashtrays and electrical appliances.

Kitchens, particularly those using deep fat frying techniques are especially vulnerable. Numerous small fires are caused in restaurant and cafe kitchens, but usually these are put out before extensive damage is caused. The FPA estimates that there were only 15 fires last year, which caused £25,000 or more worth of damage in this sector, amounting to a total of £85.9m.

On a general fire prevention front, the Home Office is mounting a special emergency advertising campaign in newspapers, television and radio.

Patricia Tisdall

Freightliners head for BR

By Michael Baily

Freightliners is expected to be returned to British Rail despite denials by Mr Rodgers, Secretary of State for Transport, in the Commons yesterday, that any decision had been taken.

Such a decision would almost certainly be seen as Government bowing to pressure from the rail unions, since it is difficult to justify it in any other terms.

In the eight years since control of Freightliners was handed over to the National Freight Corporation (with 51 per cent compared with British Rail's

49 per cent) traffic has grown from fewer than 300,000 to more than 700,000 containers a year, and turnover from £60m to £400m.

Staff was reduced 8 per cent to 2,300 last year and a £1m trading loss converted into a £13m profit, progress which the NEC expects to continue this year. But British Rail argues it could do even better by integrating Freightliners.

Accused by Opposition speakers of ignoring the consumer interest to appease Labour and Conservative union pressure, the NEC expects to continue to press for a transfer of the rail unit to the Social Affairs Committee.

Nature of the Commission is

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Investing in the film industry

From Mr J. Lawrence

Sir, Naturally we in the British film industry are delighted that more finance is being made available to the industry, at least in the future at some point. However, it must be said that within the industry itself, there are some doubts as to whether the National Film Finance Corporation is the right type of organ to carry out such an investment and loans for the making of feature films on behalf of, among others, the Government.

The outside observer, who may well be a large institutional investor seeking new fields of activity, is unlikely to be impressed by an industry which continuously calls for Government funds, and might with good reason ask itself, if the NFFC has been investing in films since 1949, why has it not got any money to invest now? While the answer to this question may not as yet be clear, one thing is certain, and that is that it is not because film is a bad investment.

I believe the Government is right to withhold funds from the NFFC. What is needed first is a thorough overall servicing of the industry backed by legislation to ensure greater flexibility between producer, marketer and exhibitor, greater cross between producer and marketer, and an increase of confidence on the part of the bureaucracy in the independent film makers themselves.

Indeed the significant feature in relation to the Queen's Speech is not that Government's policy with regard to the NFFC was spelt out but that not one single member of the House of Commons saw fit to bring up the subject of the industry in the debate on the Queen's Speech.

Clearly, the film industry is not the only one in crisis, and members may well consider it to be of a lower order of priority than, say, the fishing industry, energy or education.

Be that as it may, the feature film industry is of vital importance to the future of Britain, both as an independent cultural unit with its own language and customs, and as a part of the European community.

In the last 10 years the industry has been in decline and crisis. Opinion is that new methods of film making need to be tried, and that the business executives of the industry have fallen behind with marketing techniques, film-making

Yours sincerely,
JOHN LAWRENCE,
John Lawrence Phillips
Productions Limited,

23 Oppidans Road,
London NW3 3AG.
November 14.

Patricia Tisdall

Why architects' fees should stay mandatory

From Mr Ivor Hall
Sir, Your article in *The Times* of November 10 prompts me to give my support to the RIBA in their objection to the standard fee scale not being mandatory. It may be that the whole basis of the scale may need changing, but if a free for all situation is allowed to develop, then the "cowboys" in our midst (and there is that element in all professional bodies who are prepared to work from home using cheap student or freelance labour as and when they wish, who could quite easily undercut the professionally set-up office with higher overheads) would prosper and an inevitable erosion of the quality of work and level of professionalism would result.

Although I do not use the RIBA scale of fees myself as my own work relates to commercial interior and exhibition design work, as a member of the RIBA I am able to do so and in the end, in order to protect the client, an RIBA scale of fees must remain mandatory.

IVOR HALL,
24 Bisham Gardens,
London N6 6DD.

Illusory gains

From Mr Alan P. Hughes
Sir, "Indexing capital gains to take account of inflation would incur costs of the order of £250m...," reads your "in brief" column of November 12, adding that the present yield of CGT is £30m.

Would it not give a less distorted view if you had said that "at present yield CGT is £30m. Of this only £80m represents tax on capital gains proper, while £250m represents tax extracted on quite illusory gains, a purely paper profit produced by inflation"?

ALAN P. HUGHES,
136 Northgate Avenue,
Cheam,
Surrey SM2 7HG.

CBI conference

From Mr Ian B. Robertson
Sir, The dull, unconvincing performance of the CBI speakers shown on *BBC News* on Monday makes one understand why the trades union movement has such a large following.

If our industrial leaders went to a some acting school as some perhaps the management view would get through to the "Man-in-the-Street".

Yours truly,
IAN B. ROBERTSON,
Vice-president, International
Division,
G. H. Wood & Company
1-2 Mulgrave Road,
Surbiton SM2 5LF.

LEGAL NOTICES

THE COMPANIES ACT, 1948
In the Matter of CHANCERY IN THE
NAME OF HUNYANI INDUSTRIES
LIMITED and in the Matter of the
CHANCERY IN THE NAME OF
HUNYANI INDUSTRIES LTD
NOTICE is hereby given that a
NOTIFICATION for the WINDING-UP
of the CHANCERY IN THE NAME OF
HUNYANI INDUSTRIES LTD
was filed in the High Court of
Justice at London on 27th October
1977.

NOTIFICATION is given to the
CHANCERY IN THE NAME OF
HUNYANI INDUSTRIES LTD
that a WINDING-UP ORDER
MADE ON 27th October 1977
WILL TAKE PLACE ON FIRST
MEETING OF CREDITORS
1st December 1977.

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J.P.Y. 150

THE TIMES THURSDAY NOVEMBER 17 1977

21

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Talk of re-imposing the 'corset'

The largest volume of business in financial markets yesterday was probably in bets on the England v Italy match. That apart, there was little doing. Equities drifted listlessly downwards, not helped by yet more disappointing company results, before coming off the bottom as the afternoon wore on. Short gists continued to make headway, partly on hopes that short-term interest rates will hold their present low levels for a little longer, and partly on the back of further switching out of the Transports 4 per cent stock due for redemption just before Christmas.

By and large, though, markets are waiting for developments on the labour front, waiting for this afternoon's money supply figures for the month to mid-October, and waiting for the first hint of the way next week's discussions are going to visit the IMF team.

As far as the money supply goes, the assumption is that the October figures will be running some way ahead of Government targets, leaving the main point of interest as to just how far ahead and what, if anything, the authorities propose to do about it.

Some people are already thinking in terms of an imminent resumption of the "corset" to slow the rate of growth in bank deposits—the major component in the money supply figures.

The authorities may feel that it is rather too early to be contemplating fresh measures. First, they probably feel that it will take some weeks before one can really assess the beneficial impact of the sterling floss on monetary growth. Second, they probably want to get through the overall strategy discussions with the IMF before they start to consider specific measures.

Finally, they will be hoping that sentiment and available liquidity in the gilt market improves enough over the coming weeks to allow the whole of the new Treasury 10 per cent, 1992, stock to be sold. If that can be done, the situation could well be considered to be adequately under control as Christmas approaches. If not...

Woolworth

Still out of step

Unsettled by the results from Wheatcroft on Tuesday, the market was well prepared for Woolworth. In the event in fact Woolworth's third quarter was poor rather than bad, and enough to halt a run on the shares which were 13p down at 594p last night. Here they are supported by a 10 per cent yield assuming a maintained payment. But the group's long-awaited recovery seems as far off as ever.

For pre-tax profits are 9.5 per cent at £20.7m while an 84 per cent sales increase to 498m mask a volume fall of as much as 3 per cent.

Whether the group has the strategic buying know-how or marketing ability to take on rivals like BHS, Debenhams or Tesco when spending levels improve still remains to be seen. More evidence should be available after the crucial Christmas quarter when the effects of the latest round of tax cuts begin to make themselves felt. For the moment, though, Woolworth has been the only store group share to underperform the market this year—and that by 17 per cent against the retail sector. At this point, however, the rot may have been stopped if only because Woolworth remains a share for the income-conscious.

Unilever

European demand remains weak

Unilever's third quarter contributed to a dull equity market yesterday, but even after a sharp 22p fall, Unilever's shares at 542p are 8.4 per cent higher than they were when better than expected second quarter figures were published in August, while over the same period the FT-Index has shown a net gain of only 1.7 per cent. But unless Unilever can pull something out of the bag in the fourth quarter that relative strength will be under pressure.

Keiser

As the colour returns to Keiser Ullmann's cheeks, the question is what the longer-term future holds in store? Plainly priority still has to be given to extricating itself from its property commitments, though latest half-year figures show that this is being effected reasonably well. So Keiser is already giving thoughts to the future and recruiting staff to boost the fund management side and open up representative offices in the provinces while there are also hopes of entering insurance broking as well.

As other merchant banks are finding that these are all competitive areas, it is a moot point as to whether this is a good enough springboard for a healthy future. So at 49p the main sumpt for the shares continues to be a net worth of 63p although that level of discount is probably about right in view of the chequered past.

As it is, six-month profits to the end of September show that Keiser has just managed to squeeze into the black on trading after the earlier heavy losses and this has been further boosted by a £1.5m write-back for provisions no longer needed, and some of the rest of last year's £3 provisions will be transferred to the profit and loss account at the year end.

With the Dartington housebuilding subsidiary being run down losses there should be cut from over £1m to around £100,000 and Keiser hopes to see annual trading profits running at around £500,000. Meanwhile a further £17m of property has been sold at some £1.5m above its written down value, boosting shareholders funds from £31.5m to £32.8m and with more property sales in the second half that should reach at least £34m by the year end.

Keiser is still vulnerable to a rise in interest rates but with only a standby facility from the clearing it is reliant on cheaper market money. Although falling further in the first half, Keiser now appears to have had a fairly severe effect on the Continent.

With raw material prices, having stabilized, not too much worry on the wages

A 24 per cent drop in operating profits in the latest quarter still needs to be put in perspective however. Unilever's first quarter was up 6 per cent, the second 13 per cent, and the third quarter last year was particularly strong. In contrast a 60 to 70 per cent drop in edible oil prices between May and August this time created stock losses instead of the profits of the second three months.

So the 12 per cent decline for the nine months is perhaps a better guide for the year. The worrying factor, though, is slack volume in Europe, and consequent pressure on margins, which from the split between Ltd and NV attributable profits, looks to have had a fairly severe effect on the Continent.

With raw material prices, having stabilized, not too much worry on the wages

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Continent.

With raw material prices, having stabilized, not too much worry on the wages

Business Diary: Who's now who at BL

Edward Townsend and Ross Davies look at faces, new and not-so-new, involved in the latest reshuffle at British Leyland.

From the people point of view, the big question today must be: who will head three of the four new operating companies?

Michael Edwards, the chairman and chief executive, has been named non-executive chairman of three, Leyland Cars, Truck and Bus and, lastly, International.

Alex Park, chief executive until Edwards came in, will combine non-executive chairmanship of the fourth, Special Products, with an executive vice-chairmanship of the holding company.

Edwards will probably retain the chairmanship of Cars, which is the group's prime disaster area, particularly since he can now fall back on a deputy chairman. This is Ian MacGregor, a Scot who was formerly chairman and chief executive of the big American mining group, Amax, as well as of other big United States concerns, such as Singer and Bendix.

This still leaves the question of the Truck and Bus and International chairmanships, which incidentally carry non-executive vice-chairmanships like Park's at the new Nuffield Motor headquarters.

Neither Edwards nor anybody else at BL was talking about the two vacancies yesterday, but if they follow the pattern set by Edwards' choice of two holiday company direc-

All change: BL has just brought out a 12-page booklet of facts and figures about the group "correct at the time of publication"—that is until yesterday.

Manufacturers Glaxo, a big but quickly effective company. He prefers fishing to public life, but when last year's Labour Party conference called for the nationalization of the pharmaceuticals industry he spoke out.

Nationalization, he said, was incorrectly regarded as a panacea, he added, "those who prescribe drugs demand specific remedies for specific ills, and deeply mistrust panacea."

Frost, who is 63, prefers playing violin to fish, but is a



much more ebullient character, who seems thoroughly to enjoy changes of direction.

Some time ago he retired as finance director of ICI in the spring of last year, only to bob up as a part-time executive director of Marks & Spencer (and incidentally the only "outsider" on the board) with special responsibilities for overseas operations.

Sinclair, by the way, continues as life president of Leyland and will continue his roving ambassador role in its overseas markets.

Park, incidentally, may be

DECISION MAKING STRUCTURE

16 NOVEMBER 1977

MANAGEMENT RESOURCES PANEL

Michael Edwards—Chairman

Alex Park—Chairman

INVESTMENT PANEL

Alex Park—Chairman

BRITISH LEYLAND LTD

Board of Directors

Michael Edwards—Chairman
Ian MacGregor—Deputy Chairman
Austin Bide, Sir Robert Clark,
Albert Frost, Alex Park,
Secretary—Percy Plant

BOARD COMMITTEES

Appointments & Remuneration:

Michael Edwards—Chairman

Audit:

Sir Robert Clark—Chairman

Funding:

Albert Frost—Chairman

STRATEGY PANEL

Michael Edwards—Chairman

David Abell, David Andrews,
Pat Lowry, Alex Park (alternate
Gerry Wright), Des Pitcher,
Percy Plant & Secy., Derek Whitaker

Leyland Cars Ltd

Managing Director

Derek Whitaker

Leyland Truck & Bus Ltd

Managing Director

Des Pitcher

Leyland International Ltd

Managing Director

David Andrews

Leyland Special Products Ltd

Managing Director

Derek Abell

Devolution—British Leyland style

The reorganization of British Leyland, which resulted from the Ryder committee recommendations of two and a half years ago was largely aimed at the then monolithic central control exercised by the then chairman Lord Stokes and his deputy John Barber.

It is not overstating the case to say that management in the operating companies had become so frustrated by the near impossibility of obtaining decisions without months of delay that they were in a state of open revolt when the Government mounted its rescue operation.

The Ryder plan called for a much reduced corporate staff in London and the creation of four largely autonomous business groups—Leyland Cars, Leyland Truck & Bus, Leyland Special Products and Leyland International—each with its own managing director and operating committee.

In theory it was a big step forward in the better utilization of the management and specialist talents which had long stagnated in Leyland's scattered plants and offices. In practice it proved to be almost as frustrating as the old set up.

Instead of the dead hand of one corporate control, the managers of the new groups found themselves answerable to three masters, the main board under chief executive Alex Park, the National Enterprise Board as the controlling shareholder, and Mr Varley's Department of Industry. Managing directors like Leyland Cars, spent so much time travelling to London followed by wearisome hours justifying every move to three sets of officials that they simply did not have time to think or remain involved in developing the structure of their own divisions.

Add to that the fact that every time there was a major confrontation with the work-force and there were many in Leyland Cars—their masters insisted on blow by blow personal accounts sometimes ending in demands for yet another review of company structure and plane.

Now Michael Edwards, the ex-Chloride chief who was appointed chairman and chief executive of BL three weeks ago, has come up with yet another reorganization plan which, he claims, will carry decentralization further down the line and will be welcomed by the new chief executive.

On paper it would appear to offer anything but decentralization with its heavy superstructure of an advisory board and three corporate panels controlling every phase of decision making.

A more careful study, however, gives some grounds for hope. The old main board made up of eight executive directors (including the heads

of the four operating companies) and five non-executive directors has been replaced by a much smaller seven-man board of which only Edwards and Alex Park (the former chief executive) are full time.

The others, drawn from the top echelons of banking and industry, have proven track records and will be able to steer Edwards around the worst pitfalls.

Initial impressions suggest it is a board constructed to operate as a holding company. Certainly it is small enough for quick decision making.

It is the appearance of the Advisory Board and executive panels which were being viewed with suspicion within Leyland last night. They each have a clearly defined function and it is how they exercise these functions which is awaited with some trepidation. Will they once again constitute a bottleneck between the operating arm and decision-making?

Edwards has decided that when an managing director comes to the investment panel with a project he will not have a vote. In other words if he cannot sell it to his colleagues—and competitors for available funds—he will lose the day.

The likelihood of more structural changes to come is being hinted

There will be few if any complaints about the membership of the four subsidiary boards.

Edwards has not yet decided on the composition of all three motor subsidiaries.

The exception is Leyland Special Products, the mini-conglomerate of 11 companies manufacturing anything from construction equipment to refrigeration machinery and headed by 34-year-old David Abell. The decision to install Park as the non-executive chairman here will be seen by many as a move to add a leavening of experience to Abell's youthful exuberance.

Two other corporate executives sit on all four subsidiary boards—Pat Lowry and Gerry Wright. Lowry, 57, joined BL in 1970 as group personnel director. He has been director of the Engineering Employers' Federation and is acknowledged to be one of this country's top industrial relations experts and a man highly respected by union leaders.

Wright, 51, corporate finance director, was with English Electric, Ford and AEI before joining BL in 1968. He is well thought of both inside and outside Leyland.

Edwards' chairmanship at operating level, supported by two key corporate executives, are the clearest pointer yet to meaningful decentralization.

The danger is that once having immersed himself in the detailed work of the subsidiaries he will find it very difficult to cut loose again.

Clifford Webb

Economic notebook

Things will look better before they get worse

Britain's inflation rate is coming down fast. The annual rate of price increases in the last half of this year should end up at about 7 per cent, sharply down from the near 20 per cent annualized increase in the first six months of the year.

This almost respectable inflation performance will probably continue until well into next year. Unpublished government forecasts are of a 7 per cent annual rate rise in retail prices over the next six months.

Unfortunately, even while the monthly figures will be heralded as showing a further decline in the most usual inflation rate, the year on year rise in retail prices—the underlying rate of increase will be edging inexorably higher.

Earnings increases are the key. Yesterday's figures were as good as could be expected. Although the year on year rise in average earnings turned up for the first time for six months, this was largely a reflection of a quirky drop in earnings between August and September.

In the first two months of phase three the size of the average pay packet (before tax and national insurance) increased by barely more than 1 per cent. However, this is not an accurate guide to the likely outcome for the whole of the pay round.

It is a more or less open secret that officials in the Treasury are looking for a 15 per cent increase in the national wage bill, although the Chancellor is sticking firmly to public, at least—to his hoped for 10 per cent. This was never a serious possibility.

The government forecasts that price inflation would fall to about 6 per cent by the end of next year, which were based on the 10 per cent earnings increases assumed.

This has been underlined by the Government's reaction to the settlements notified so far. It has become clear that "within official guidelines" means settlements at about 10 per cent, which is a far cry from earnings increases of an average 10 per cent.

The likelihood of more structural changes to come is hinted at in yesterday's statement which talked of "further evolution over the next 12 months" now being welcomed by the many managers in Leyland Cars who have been advocating the creation of subdivisions to cover small cars, medium cars, specialist and sports cars and parts and servicing.

Judging by Edwards' recent statement in British Leyland Mirror they already have sympathetic ears. After referring to the reorganization already achieved by the other three operating companies he said:

"The Leyland Cars group is less decentralized but that is something to be looked at... I believe in deploying people into the area where profits are made and where goods are produced."

Land Securities

Interim results

The Directors announce that the unaudited consolidated results for the six months ended 30th September 1977 are:

Year to		Six Months to
31.3.77		30.9.76
59,667		
	(Figures in £000's)	
	Total gross income	31,018 28,062
	Income from completed properties (Note 1):	
	Net rents and interest receivable	22,583 20,178
	Less outgoings and expenses	10,005 10,842
	Less: Interest payable	
	Income before taxation	12,578 9,336
	Less: Taxation (Note 2)	6,540 4,855
	Net income from completed properties available for distribution	6,038 4,481
	Earnings per share:	
	Basic (Note 3)	3.13p 2.79p
	Fully diluted	3.00p 2.80p

NOTES

1. Income from completed properties includes £3,564,000 (1976: £2,528,000) interest receivable on deposits.
2. The taxation charge for six month periods is computed at 52% whereas the charge for the year reflects relief arising from capital allowances.
3. The basic earnings for the period reflect the issue of approximately 32.8m Ordinary Shares of 50p on the conversion of Convertible Unsecured Loan Stocks in September 1977.
4. Net outgoings after taxation attributable to development properties, amounting to £2,162,000 (1976: £2,399,000), are offset by a transfer from Capital Reserve. The unrealised exchange movement of the US dollar loan is also dealt with through Capital Reserve; for the period, there is a gain of £735,000 (1976: loss £6,410,000).

An interim dividend of 1.5p net per share, 2.273p gross (1976: 1.5p net; 2.308p gross) has been declared and will be paid on 15th December 1977 to holders registered on 18th November 1977. The net interim dividend payable amounts to £2,896,000 (1976: £2,405,000), reflecting the conversions in September 1977.

The supplementary final dividend of 0.05p net per share for the year to 31st March 1977, payable on the Ordinary Shares in issue on that date in accordance with the Resolution passed at the Annual General Meeting held on 19th July 1977, will be paid on the same date as the interim dividend to holders registered on 30th September 1977.

THE LAND SECURITIES INVESTMENT TRUST LIMITED
Devonshire House, Piccadilly, London W1X 6BT

What does Grindlays bank on?

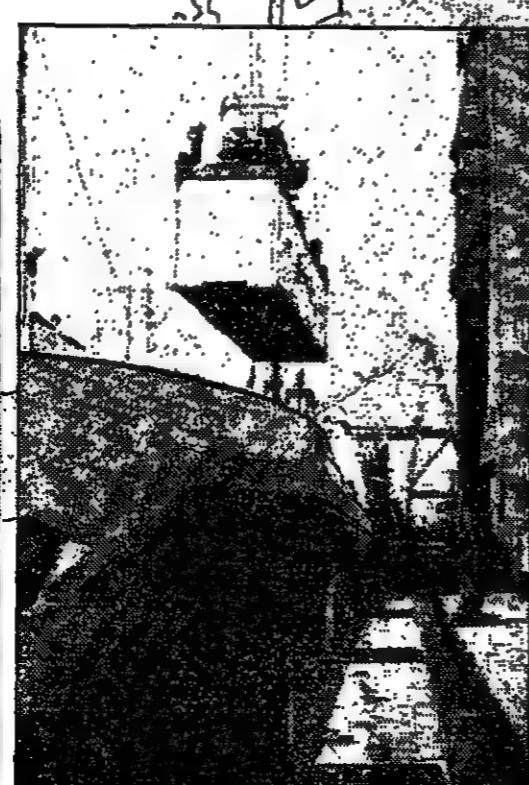
The Grindlays Bank Group has come a long way from its beginnings in the 19th Century. In 1977 we are a major international bank

- a world leader in certain areas - but we work hard to preserve the traditions that put us where we are today.

Although the Group is now represented and active all around the world, we have not forgotten that it is people who make our business: our own specialists and managers in head office and branches working alongside other people - our customers.

The success of this team effort can be seen in these examples of the Group's activities - as they happen.

They are the result of people's efforts. That is what Grindlays bank on.



THE GROUP PROVIDES BANKING FACILITIES FOR 71 OF THE U.K. TOP 100 INDUSTRIAL COMPANIES SOMEWHERE IN THE WORLD. Two of our corporate banking team in London discuss the financing of a project in the Middle East with the Finance Director of a leading British contracting company.

THE GROUP ACTIVELY PROMOTES BRITISH EXPORTS THROUGH ECGD DOLLAR BUYER CREDITS

We have arranged ECGD export finance facilities for British equipment to customers in over 55 countries.

THE GROUP'S TREASURY DIVISION COVERS ALL FOREIGN EXCHANGE AND MONEY MARKET ACTIVITIES. Our foreign exchange dealing room is one of London's most active in the major currencies and also provides quotations in up to 40 other currencies. The Treasury is also active in the eurocurrency and sterling inter-bank markets and in particular offers a service in a wide range of money market instruments.



**Grindlays
Bank
Group**

23 Fenchurch Street, London EC3P 3ED.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Down again despite bear closing

On what many dealers thought was the slowest day of the year share prices staged a strong rally in the post-lunch session as the short-term "bears" closed down their positions.

Early sentiment was once again badly hit by worries over company profits, the particular point of concern being third quarter results from Unilever which were not only well below market hopes but also did not bode well for the final three months.

The FT Index, 9.1 off at 1pm, improved steadily thereafter and by the close was just 3.6 down to 484.3. Late in the session dealers were speculating how much worse things would have been if Unilever had been an index constituent.

Government stocks were similarly sluggish and gains were generally limited to one quarter of a point in thin trading.

Onward and upward (by and large) climbs Jones Woodhead. The shares are now 225p, against 96p earlier this year. Norwich Union and Prudential have 15 per cent between them. It looks as if this bid situation could make profits of £7m or more in the year to March 31 next against less than £4.6m last time. Dividend cover is massive. The interim bulletins due soon should be good.

Nicely enough Unilever's shares had a volatile session, opening at 563p and dropping to a "low" of 530p. By the close they had rallied to 525p but still a net loss of 22p on the day. The NV ended 62p lower at 23.87.

Elsewhere among the "blue chips" movements were less drastic though Beecham dipped 5p to 620p and Glaxo 4p to 583p. ICI, whose figures next week are being viewed with increasing concern, slipped just a penny to 363p.

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Dividends in this table are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Guidance. b Combined figures. c Loss. d forecast.

The previous day's figures from Courtaulds are a main reason for this concern and here the shares firms a penny to 110p.

In the stores sector figures from Woolworth confirmed worst fears and the shares lost 11p to 591p. Though better by the close many stores and food retailing issues fell in sympathy with Sainsbury, off 3p to 200p, Associated Dairies 10p to 247p and Wheatsheaf, whose figures were another reason for depression, 10p to 170p. Going against the general trend was GKN Save which closed with a gain of 10p to 220p.

Unilever opened the most volatile session of the session came in the drinks sector, where Glevin started 105p to 430p on widespread talk that the Japanese Suntory company was ready with terms. Late in the day the talk was proved wrong when it was learned that Suntory was not the buyer.

But other dealers' views were not so sanguine with Bass off 4p to 158p and Guinness lower 3p to 190p. After figures Young & Company were several pence down at 135p.

With general trade at a minimum takeover and speculative

issues again made a strong showing.

The long running saga of Crane Fruehauf took another twist when the American Fruehauf Corporation came with yet another counter offer worth 90p. The hope that Inchcape will provide further competition had the shares 9p to the good at 92p.

Hay's Wharf soared 16p to 189p on widespread talk that the Kuwait Investment Office had sold its 34 per cent stake to a potential but as yet unidentified suitor. The renewed speculative interest in Federated Chemical over the last two sessions was vindicated when it was learned that the group was in talks and the shares gained another 8p for a close of 76p. Furness Witton was well supported again rising another 14p to 332p.

The Commercial Union rights issue, which the firm's strike might lead to an increase in fire damage claims cast a shadow over the insurance sector.

Electronic Machine held steady at 20p despite gossip of problems. Mr N. Munro, chief executive says that the second half year should be much better

than the first, and the official forecast of progress in 1977-78 still holds good.

Some think that last week's sale by Goode Durrant & Murray of its United Kingdom instalment credit business to the United States for £10m may be the prelude to a bid. Assets stand at more than double the share price of 26p for this "close" company, and it is thought the controlling interests might be tempted by the right terms. The fortunes of the Rawlings housebuilding subsidiary, whose shares are suspended, are now said to be much improved after a loss in the half year to April.

Equity turnover on November 15 was £68.42m (13,678 bargains). Active stocks yesterday, according to Exchange Telegraph, were ICI, Beecham, Unilever, Royal, B.A.T. Dfd, Hay's Wharf, Shell, B.A.T. Grand Metropolitan, B.A.T. partly paid, Associated Dairies, Federated Chemicals, Marks & Spencer, Vickers, Wheatsheaf, Woolworth and Muirhead.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int'l	£m	£m	per share	per share	date	total
Chadkin & Hill (I)	3.2(2.5)	0.16(0.25)	1.2(1.1)	—	—	(2.1)
Diamond Dodge (F)	0.59(0.30)	0.22(0.20)	115.3(8.94)	10.0(8.81)	13/1	(1.7)
Edwards Inv. (I)	—	0.57(0.30)	—	0.5(0.4)	3/1	(4.2)
EMI (I)	—	—	—	1.67(1.5)	—	—
Horch (I)	1.7(1.5)	0.59(2.4)	2.9(1.9)	—(N/A)	—	—(1.1)
Keyes Ultimo (I)	3.2(2.4)	1.5(6.1c)	2.6(12.3c)	—(N/A)	—	—(1.1)
Land Sec (I)	—	12.5(9.3)	3.0(2.80)	1.25(1.25)	15/12	2.70(2.4)
Lin. Prod. Inv. (I)	—	1.5(1.4)	1.56(1.56)	1.25(0.9)	21/12	12.45(11.14)
Matched (F)	7.0(6.3)	0.82(0.70)	38.0(30.7)	7.45(7.61)	20/1	3.7(3.3)
Nim Goldsmith (I)	1.37(1.30)	1.5(1.4)	13.7(11.6)	3.0(2.7)	—	—(1.6)
P. Pantz (I)	10.4(9.3)	0.17(0.16)	—(—)	0.85(0.85)	23/12	6.1(—)
J. W. Speer (I)	2.5(2.3)	1.0(0.75)	2.33(2.27)	0.77(0.77)	23/12	6.1(—)
Unilever (Q)	2,418.06 (2,202.62)	18.93 (22.89)	7.5 (7.5)	7.5 (7.5)	23/12	18.34 (18.34)
Warren Hdwy (I)	—	0.39 (0.24)	—	3.45 (3.21)	23/12	6.2 (6.36)
Wight Cams (I)	4.0(4.8)	0.26 (0.24)	—	0.35 (0.35)	6/2	6.1 (6.11)
F.W. Wivorth (Q)	497.7 (459.3)	20.6 (22.8)	—	2.75 (2.75)	21/12	6.7 (6.71)

Dividends in this table are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividends by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Guidance. b Combined figures. c Loss. d forecast.

The US group has had trading relations with Crane since 1961 and took a one-third stake in 1963. In October last year, it made a bid of just 27p cash a share. This was quickly called "derisory" by Crane's board.

But the bid passed when it was referred to the UK Monopolies Commission. Then in August the commission ruled that it could go ahead. However, the conclusion was based on a split vote.

Crane's trading started to improve pre-tax profits in the first half of the year being trebled to £1.2m. The US company is more than doubled its terms to 51p cash a share. But the answer was still "no".

Less than a month ago, Fruehauf increased it to 70p a share. Finally, at the end of October, Inchcape made its surprise offer - toppling Fruehauf's terms and carrying the recommendation of Crane's UK directors.

Crane makes semi-trailers, transporters, tankers, containers, van and truck bodies.

Harcros revenue doubles

In the six months to September 30, the pre-tax revenue of Harcros Investment Trust more than doubled to £570,000 from £209,000 for the similar period last year. This is more than the record £526,000 made in the whole of the year to March 31.

However, the board explains that the revenue figures are not, in fact, comparable. They include the special dividends paid on June 1 by Golden Hope Plantations, London, Asiatic Rubber and Produce, and Pembridge Rubber Estates as part of the proposals for the merger of the three companies into Harcros Malaysian Estates. These dividends totalled £226,000, excluding the tax credit.

Net revenue for the half-year rose from £159,000 to £441,000 after £20,000 was compensated with £10,000 last year. The board estimates that net revenue for the full year will be about 50 per cent above the £357,000 for 1976-77.

The gross interim dividend rises from 0.61p to 0.9p. Last year's final was 2p gross.

Ever Ready to spend around £40m

By Christopher Wilkins
Ever Ready is planning a considerably enlarged capital investment programme which will involve it spending at least £50m and possibly more than £60m in the next two to three years.

It will represent a major expansion from the sub-levelled level of expenditure of the past two years which has totalled only just over £5m. Large, as a result of the low level of recent investment, the group's liquid position has improved considerably and, following the disposal of its stake in Malloway's European operations, it now has cash in its balance sheet.

Part of the investment will be allocated to new developments in alkaline manganese batteries and button cells, the former accounting for perhaps £4m-£5m and the latter perhaps £2-£3m.

The interim results in May brought news of a shakeout in the United States operation, which brought closure costs of £60,000 but the prospect of long-term benefits. At home there

Spear shows increase

FINANCIAL NEWS

Disney and American Express decide against a marriage

International

Burbank, California.—Walt Disney Productions disclosed that it recently met with American Express to consider combining the two companies. But no further meetings are planned and consideration of the matter is over.

The two groups made this plan after inquiries from the New York Stock Exchange. Last week executives of American Express made a visit which had been arranged several weeks ago to offices of Walt Disney Productions.

During that visit American Express officers suggested that there might be areas of joint interest, which would indicate the desirability of considering a combination of the two companies. No terms were disclosed, the companies said.

Reports of a possible merger are completely untrue, they added. No further meetings are planned.

American Express (travel, banking, insurance) decided last month through its International Banking Corporation to inject capital into Group Lotus Ltd. Companies in a deal giving it an option to subscribe for nearly 10 per cent of Lotus.

Saint Gobain sales

No sales for the St. Gobain Pen & Mousson Group this year will be lower than the 23.125m francs between June 1 and September 30), increased with 17.2m francs, an increase of 34.7 per cent.

After taking into account changes in the consolidation plan in the intervening time, and in particular the consolidation at the end of 1976 of Saint Gobain Corporation in the United States, and Glaucis de St. Roch in Belgium, the increase amounts to 11.4 per cent.

After elimination of the effects of the changes in many parts of reference to the increase in sales amounts to 10.4 per cent.

Ford looks ahead

Mahwah, New Jersey.—Ford Motor is projecting United States Reel Gross National Product growth in 1978 of 4.3 per cent, executive vice president

for the third quarter and the first nine months of 1977, and the interim Ordinary dividends

are



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With its monotonous scenery and striking architecture, the Yemen Arab Republic contrasts sharply with the rest of the Arab world.

YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

A Special Report

Behind the assassinations

Great mystery still surrounds the triple killing by gunmen last month of the Yemen Arab Republic head of state, President Ibrahim al-Hamdi, his brother, Colonel Abdallah al-Hamdi, and his brother-in-law, Colonel Ali Khamis.

In the absence of any arrests or hard facts, conflicting versions of what happened at Colonel Abdallah's house on the afternoon of October 11 continue to circulate in San'a and other Arab capitals, together with theories and suspicions as to whose finger was really on the trigger.

The disclosure, to emerge later, that two French girls also died in the hail of bullets has given rumour-mongers something of a field-day, particularly as the late head of state had hitherto been considered to live an impeccable private life.

There is speculation over whether the two girls were, unwittingly perhaps, part of the assassins' plot, or just hapless victims caught in the crossfire. Had they not been foreigners their involvement need never have come to light. On the other hand, it might be argued, foreign girls may have been deliberately chosen to ensure that their involvement did become known.

Although an official commission has been appointed to look into the assassination, most observers believe that few outside the immediate circle of the new Head of State, Lieutenant-Colonel Ahmed Ghashmi, and the Command Council will ever know the real story, and perhaps not even them. The murder of a former Prime Minister, Qadi al-Hajjar, outside a London hotel earlier this year has never been satisfactorily explained.

When news of the murders first broke, it was assumed by those familiar with the Yemen Arab Republic's tribally oriented politics that the assassins' politics were responsible. They have long been at loggerheads with Al-Hamdi's Government whose strike aircraft had more than once in recent months made punitive raids into their territory.

A month later, however, the solution appears less straightforward, and in San'a and elsewhere other suspicions are being whispered. Many Yemenis suspect Saudi Arabia of having some hand in it, although they have long tended to blame their rich northern neighbour and benefactor for all their ills. However, the Saudis were so worried by these rumours that they took the highly unusual step of issuing a formal disclaimer.

Setting aside the question of who was responsible for the murders, clearly the new, unequivocally pro-Saudi leader is a more satisfactory candidate in the eyes of the policy-makers in Riyadh. For some time they have been unhappy with the independent line taken by President Al-Hamdi, as his Government was so Sciemically dependent on them.

The ultimate Saudi nightmare is probably the seizure of power in San'a by a Moscow or Peking-oriented junta which would unite with the Marxist regime in Aden and then together have designs on their rich northern neighbour. For a united Yemen would have a ready-made "Trojan horse" of about 1,250,000 able-bodied men inside Saudi Arabia, the total of their combined workforce in the country today.

Some observers see as significant the fact that Al-Hamdi was killed on the eve of his intended visit to Aden for the tenth anniversary of the revolutions of the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

Saudi Arabia, reasonably, has a close interest in who holds power in both San'a and in Aden, and in the stability of both countries. Most Western analysts see Al-Hamdi's death as a threat to the country's stability. Indeed, a few days after the assassination there was an attempt on the life of the new President, and an army officer was executed.

Reports — unconfirmed — circulating in San'a say that after Al-Hamdi's murder the garrison at Dhahar, loyal to the president's brother, were agitating to march north, surrounding the capital and waiting until the murderer or murderers were produced.

Al-Hamdi, at 35 one of the younger generation in the Arab world and a forceful and determined personality, had managed to bring some kind of stability. If not actual unity, to his country after the prolonged and bitter civil war. He was liked personally and respected by the great majority of Yemenis, except in the north, where the deposed imams had their greatest following.

Although he has yet to be tested, the new Head of State is seen by most analysts as a less outstanding figure, but only time will tell whether they are right. He has, however, made it clear that his Government will continue to pursue the policy of his predecessor, and most Western observers in San'a accept this.

by Peter Hopkirk

Country stakes all on great leap forward

nuances both in North Yemen and also in the Marxist-run People's Democratic Republic further south.

North Yemenis resent deeply any suggestion that they are the client state of their wealthy northern neighbour, a natural reaction in a society of independent people who over the centuries have seen numerous would-be colonizers off the peninsula, culminating with the expeditionary force in 1967.

"The Saudis need their Yemenis—but their manpower is not much as the Yemenis need Saudi aid and work opportunities," as one Western diplomat in San'a put it.

On the domestic scene, after inflation the most serious problem facing the Government is the accelerating deterioration in agriculture. Until the outbreak of civil war in 1962, the country was self-sufficient in food production. Today some 40 per cent of foodstuffs have to be imported.

The Yemenis, among the last people on earth to emerge from the Middle Ages, have taken to the twentieth century with considerable relish.

In an oil-rich Gulf state none of this would be remarkable. But the Yemen Arab Republic—or North Yemen as it is commonly known—has no oil. It has few other natural resources, dwindling exports, a huge and growing trade deficit, and officially one of the poorest nations in the world.

Where then does all the money come from? The answer lies in the vast remittances sent home each year by one million or more Yemenis who work in neighbouring Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states. Those remittances have now reached a huge annual total of \$1,000m or more. The earnings of one emigrant worker, it is said, can support a small village back at home. Moreover, the extended family system of North Yemen ensures that almost everyone has a stake in the Arabian oil boom.

But apart from raising the morale of a long-impooverished population of nearly seven million and giving the country a veneer of prosperity, the remittances at present make little contribution to the strenuous efforts locally—to much as \$10 for one man's daily supply—so farmers growing it can afford to buy their family's food requirements without the sweat of having to produce their own. Because of the country's rugged terrain, which requires intensive terracing, farming has always been back-breaking work. It became increasingly un rewarding during the prolonged period of drought between 1963 and 1973.

This drove many more male Yemenis to emigrate to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf

continued on next page

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Fertile soil may lead to return of former prosperity

In sharp contrast to the rest of the Arabian Peninsula, nature has blessed North Yemen with good land and abundant rainfall. Covering an estimated 75,000 sq miles, the country is dominated by mountain slopes and high plateaux which contain some of the most fertile soil in the Arab world. Here also, between 1967 and 1970, exist some of the world's finest terraced cultivation, which earned the Yemen the same as a whole.

Again, a poor harvest in 1972-73 led to a sharp increase in food imports, which accounted for nearly 50 per cent of North Yemen's imports that season.

However, in 1975 grain output increased by 40 per cent to a record level of more than two million tons. This was said to have brought self-sufficiency in most cereals for the first time in recent years. But, with a rapid increase in its population and disposable income and with unpredictable weather, North Yemen could again find itself dependent on imported food.

Cotton, which now accounts for just over 1 per cent of cultivated land, is gradually becoming an important export crop. Of fine and long-staple quality cotton is by far the biggest export. Sales increased from 18,500 tons in 1972-73 to 28,300 tons in 1974-75, bringing an income of 25,200,000 rials, which accounted for 53 per cent of all exports.

But, because of fluctuations in water supplies and sluggish world demand, cotton exports fell sharply from the record of 36.3m rials in 1974 to 26.7m in 1975 and to only 11.7m in 1976.

However, world demand and prices have begun to pick up this year and cotton sales have already reached a record of 17.5m rials in the first quarter. The country is now planning to boost its staple production by 1981 to 22,400,000 metres.

North Yemen's second biggest crop export is coffee, 90 per cent of the cultivated fee. Despite its high quality,

it is rain-fed, and the rest of the Tibana region also produces fruit and vegetables, including citrus fruits, apricots, grapes, peaches, tomatoes, watermelons and pomelos which find a ready market in the country's largest towns, Sana'a, Taiz and Hodeida. Dates and tobacco are produced in Tibana and, together with cotton, these crops provide the basis for an agricultural industry in the plain.

Coffee exports decreased in volume by 25 per cent in 1972 compared with 1970 while the value of sales dropped from 8.1m rials in 1970 to 5.4m in 1972.

However, the recent sharp increase in world coffee prices has boosted the value

of coffee exports to nearly

7m rials in 1976. Sales in the first quarter of this year have reached a record value of 3.1m rials.

The cultivation of qat, which has been banned officially on land owned by the state or religious organizations since 1972, appears to find a ready and profitable market in both the Yemen's accounting for nearly 7m rials, became the second biggest export in 1976, replacing coffee for the first time.

North Yemen's agricultural growth was at best stagnant up to 1973, when it began to increase at an average of 3 per cent a year as a result of agricultural investment of 1.38m rials over 15 per cent of total investment expenditure under the country's 935m rials three-year plan.

The new 16,500m rials five-year plan to 1982, launched in June, has allocated 2,600m rials for agriculture development, which is expected to grow at 5.5 per cent a year.

Increasing irrigated land by 30 per cent over the next five years. The biggest project is a \$17.5m irrigation scheme to develop 60,000 hectares in the Tibana plain which will double cotton and vegetable output.

The scheme is financed by the World Bank's affiliate, the International Development Agency, the United States Agency for International Development and the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development.

Other big projects include a poultry farm financed by rural development programme financed by USAID, \$20m three-year development by IDA and the Abu Dhabi Fund for Arab Economic Development to help about

The highland areas and 120,000 farmers in Ibb and Taiz.

Another scheme to develop 20,000 to 30,000 hectares of irrigated land in Wadi Sardud for cotton, grain and livestock fodder as well as for fruit and vegetables is being designed by the British civil engineering consultants, Sir William Halcrow & Partners, under a contract won in August 1976.

The scheme, to develop both surface and underground water supplies, will be financed by Saudi Arabia and Abu Dhabi.

The IDA is also financing two other projects, one costing \$5m to develop livestock and the other a \$2.2m to build three grain storage silos at Hodeida. Sana'a and Taiz as part of a \$15m scheme designed by Oscar Faber & Partners of Britain.

To help farmers to modernize their methods by using tractors and machinery, an Agricultural Credit Bank with a paid-up capital of 20m rials was set up in Sana'a late last year to provide "soft" loans to farmers.

North Yemen's planners estimate that by 1981, agricultural development will boost fertilizer consumption by 286 per cent; insecticides by 412 per cent and tractors by 216 per cent.

Among other crops to be increased substantially will be wheat, which should increase by 146 per cent by 1981; vegetables, by 373 per cent; and potatoes, by 373 per cent.

But the obstacles to the success of such ambitious schemes are great. Apart from droughts, the introduction of much of the new technology will depend on the availability of North Yemen's organizational and public services resources to cope and on the availability of skilled and unskilled workers in rural areas.

With its fertile soil, good climate and with the changing of its feudal system of land tenure, North Yemen's development efforts may recover its former agricultural prosperity.

Late in August it was to be so for several years.

Announced in Sana'a that North Yemen could become one of the largest producers in the world of copper ore

within the next few years.

Recent copper finds in

Humra and in Al-Baida

near the border with South

Yemen, reported to the Government by team of international geologists,

could boost considerably

North Yemen's foreign

exchange.

Demand for copper has been increasing steadily and prices are rising sharply. On

the London metal market

copper prices in recent

months were closing at 575

to 5720 a tonne.

The first well to be

drilled in North Yemen, by

Yemen Shell Exploration,

a company registered in

Hamburg, proved negative.

Large quantities of iron

ore of commercial value

were reported to have been

discovered at Sadah, north

of Sana'a, and at Al-

Baida. These were reported

to be enough to meet North

Yemen's domestic require-

ment for at least 200 years.

Several other geological

surveys were carried out in

recent years by West German, British, Romanian,

Chinese, and Soviet firms.

Preliminary exploration

for metallic and industrial

minerals has so far indicated the presence of

various other deposits, in-

cluding silver, gold,

titanium, uranium, lead,

zinc, mercury, sulphur and

Economic Development

provided \$400m to

expansion of bulk-loading at

port of Salif, original

capacity was later increased

to a million tons with

second loan of \$1,200m

from KFAED.

Until the summer of 1976

nearly all extracted salt was

exported to Japan at the

rate of about 80,000 tons

year, with a peak of 107,800

tons in 1968. Salif exports

ceased in 1972 because of

the sharp fall in world

demand and because of

Japanese ban on Salif

after allegations that its

water caused pollution.

The ban by Japan led to

dispute between the two

countries and a partial ban

on Japanese imports in

North Yemen, worth \$100

million in 1975.

Left with a million tons

of salt, Yemen has been trying

to find other outlets, though

Japan will review its position.

The Salif salt mines, ex-

pected to start production

in 1978, after being closed

for five years after a major

survey by O. W. Baskin

Industrial Consultants,

London, commissioned in

March by the United Na-

tions Development

Programme for the Yemen

Minerals Corporation. Yem-

en salt, expected to be marketed at competitive prices, will now go to other markets, including the Soviet Union and North Korea.

According to United Na-

tions estimate, Salif can

compete \$2.5m by 1980

compared with \$400,000 in 1970.

However, it is still un-

known whether North Yemen

will be able to sell all its

available output in view

of strong competition from

Mexico and the growing

suppliers of Australia.

The search for oil con-

tinues. In 1974 Deutsche

Shell was granted a conces-

sion offshore of 19,000 sq

km covering from the Saudi

Arabian border to the port

of Hodeida. That was

about 400,000 tons a year

after the Kuwait Fund for

development had been

disbursed.

The search for oil con-

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after the Kuwait Fund for

development had been

disbursed.

The author is on the sta-

of the Middle East Econo-

mic Digest.

Copper finds lift hopes for other minerals

part of the North Yemen Arab Economic Development provided \$400m to

coastline and the area off shore south of Hodeida, and has been intense in the past four years. Unlike

renewed its 1974 agreement with prospecting in the

commercial quantities has been

with prospecting in the second half of 1977.

Other companies involved

in oil exploration in North Yemen include Toyo Menka Kaisha (Toyon) of Japan, which has been granted a concession off the country's southern coast of 2,500 sq km. Toyon has been sharing exploration costs with Sante Fe International of the United States.

Apart from the welcome foreign exchange earnings, the discovery of oil in commercial quantities would much improve North Yemen's supplies of energy.

North Yemen suffered greatly from the sharp increase in oil prices in 1973, when the Government was forced to grant large subsidies to the local marketing firm, Yemen Petroleum Company, to enable it to sell oil products at a suitable price.



OUTLOOK OF DEVELOPMENT IN

By Mohammed Salem Basindwa, Minister of Development and

The Yemen Arab Republic with less than 7 million inhabitants on an area of about 200 thousand m², belongs to the handful of least developed countries in the world. Several geographic and political factors, particularly the mountainous nature, the Imam-Regime before the revolution of the 26th of September, 1962, and the civil-war till the early seventies, imposed on the country a severe isolation from the rest of the world and an isolation of the areas from each other within the country as well. In fact, the 13th of June, 1974, the date of the Correction Movement under the leadership of President Ibrahim Al-Hamdi, is to be considered a principal historic turning point in the life of the country. This date marked the line between isolation and open doors and between economic stagnation and the development dynamics.



H.E. Mr. Mohammed Salem Basindwa, Minister of Development and Chairman of the Central Planning Organisation.

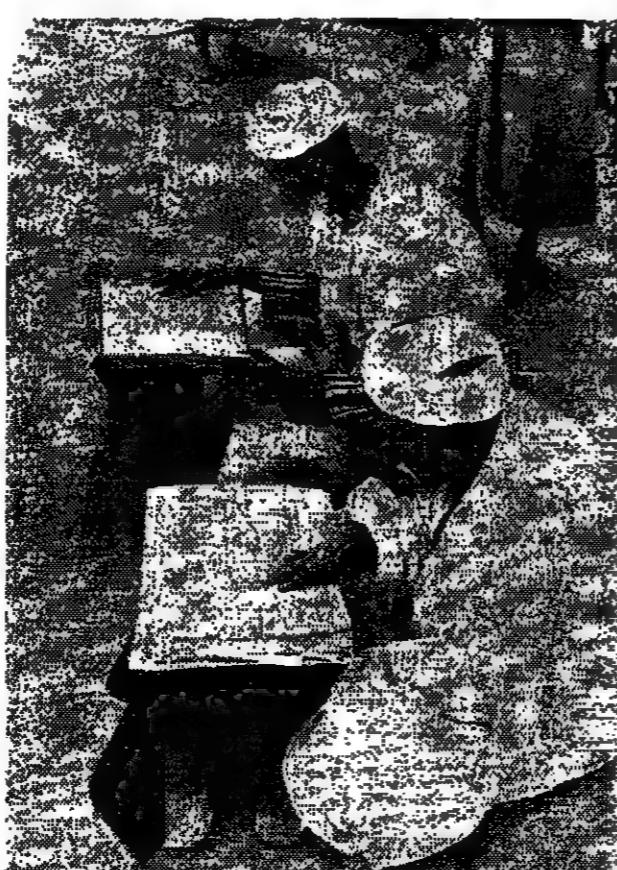
When the country started to open its eyes on the modern culture, it found itself in confrontation with fundamental difficulties and bottlenecks. Notwithstanding the existence of the inherited traditional culture, which is based on wonderful terraces and water systems existing since thousands of years, and the multi-storey buildings standing on tops and summits, this culture was based on manual work and a primitive technology. All the fundamentals of the modern cultures, particularly the physical infrastructure and the qualified human resources, were almost non-existent. Agriculture depends on rainfall, the livestock is degenerated, industry is primitive and manual, and even the cities were in urgent need of clean drinking water, electricity and sewerage, whereas several diseases dominated the country heavily, like tuberculosis, malaria and bilharzia, and the juridical and education system has not changed much since about 14 centuries.

Notwithstanding the important development during the last few years, the main bottleneck is still the infrastructure. Roads and ports are weak and unable to meet the needs of development, the skilled labour is rare and the migration of labourers is leading to a shortage even in unskilled labour. Particularly the institutions and leading personnel which should be responsible for planning and monitoring development and project implementation, are forming the main shortage.

One of the criteria of underdevelopment is the domination of agriculture in the economy, whereas it is characterized by poor technology and low productivity. Additionally the G.D.P. per capita is about \$113 (at constant prices of 1971/72, or \$237 at current prices). The final consumption is higher than the G.D.P., the G.D.P. per worker is about \$519, and a worker has—on average—to provide consumption for an additional three persons. The life expectancy at birth is less than 36 years for males and about 38 years for females. Infant mortality is estimated at 26% for males and 22% for females. There is on average one physician for every 41,000 of the population, one dentist for every 317,000 and one pharmacist for every 216,000. Per-capita electricity consumption is about the equivalent of 13kg of coal per annum.

Since the country moved towards open-doors policy and development within the system of free market economy, foreign loans and aids started to flow into the country and to contribute considerably to its development. They are estimated at about YR 515 Million in the last year, which is about 75% of the development expenditures of the government and the public and mixed sectors. Also the remittances from the Yemeni workers abroad provide the country with about 50 million \$ per month. Thus they are the main resource of foreign exchange and give the YR a strong position in the exchange market, but they are creating liquidity, which is making demand pressure on the market. The latter in its turn is not elastic, mainly due to the shortage of ports capacity and to the limited production capability. This is reflected in domestic inflation, added to the imported one. There is also the fact that this liquidity is in the hands of the citizens and that the government resources are insufficient for developing a strong public sector. This resulted in the policy of mobilization of the private resources—assisted and supported by the government—to create and enlarge the mixed sector, based on joint venture. This policy is supplemented by the support of joint venture with foreign capital, the idea of management agreements with foreign firms and by the adoption of the methods of fast implementation of the projects like the turnkey method, direct contract negotiations, the invitation of offers without detailed performance specifications, etc. To encourage foreign and national investments in the country, the government issued an investment law last year. This law gives guarantees against confiscation and nationalization and includes several incentives like tax exemptions, etc.

In June, 1977, the government announced the first Five-Year Development Plan for the fiscal years 1976/77-1980/81. This period should form a sort of first stage towards the self-reliance on the part of the country in financing development and in the implementation of the construction part of the investments. To the Plan's main general goals belong the establishing of an



The teaching of Koran in the main mosque, Sanaa.

Past and planned growth of G.D.P.

Sector	ANNUAL AVERAGE RATE OF GROWTH OF REAL GDP					
	69/70-75/76 actual %	72/73-75/76 actual %	76/77- 80/81 planned %	Base year Mill. YR	75/76 % Mill. YR	80/81 % Mill. YR
Agriculture	6.6	4.9	5.5	2305	44.5	3010
Industry	11.8	8.6	11.7	302	5.8	526
Building & Construction	8.0	5.2	14.4	227	4.4	445
Transport & Communication	12.0	8.0	11.3	151	2.9	258
Trade	70.0	10.4	10.1	1220	23.6	1970
Finance	29.9	35.4	9.5	141	2.7	222
Real Estate	3.2	3.0	3.6	199	3.8	238
Government Services	10.5	11.0	10.0	508	9.8	820
Other Services	7.1	7.1	7.5	127	2.5	182
TOTAL	7.7	7.0	8.2	5181	100	7671
						100

It is worth mentioning that the investment programme of the Government and existing public and mixed sectors include additional allocations consisting of about YR 2.1 Billion and considered as incentive allocations for the projects. The sums shown in the above table are the real investments expected. Thus the investment programme will be about YR 10.4 Billions.

On the other hand the investments consisting of YR 15971 Mill fixed capital formation and YR 579 Mill. increase in stock are planned as follows:

Distribution of investments by sectors of economic activity and socio-economic sectors

Socio-economic Sectors/ Sectors of economic activity	Government & existing public & mixed Sector	Cooperative Sector	New mixed projects identified	Sector not identified projects	Private Sector not identified projects		Total Investments
					Identified projects	not identified projects	
Agriculture	1086	2	—	208	—	980	2276
Mining & Quarrying	79	—	—	75	—	20	179
Manufacturing	374	—	941	83	315	285	1998
Electrics & Water	1159	103	—	61	—	50	1373
Construction	33	43	50	200	—	125	451
Trade	130	7	11	89	—	381	628
Transport & Communication	3360	615	67	283	—	600	4925
Finance	25	—	55	—	—	13	93
Real Estate	150	—	220	—	—	1720	2090
Government Services	1610	—	—	—	—	—	1610
Other Services	—	331	—	—	—	22	353
Subtotal Fixed Capital Formation	8006	1101	1344	999	315	4206	15971
Increase in Stock	129	25	80	70	15	260	579
Total Investments	8135	1126	1424	1669	330	4466	16550

infrastructure for the economy and breaking the isolation of areas, developing construction capacity, strengthening education and training, particularly the medium-level staff, and strengthening the health care services. The Plan concentrates the efforts on studying the mineral and water resources, in industrialization (mainly of local raw materials), moving towards any possible self-sufficiency in food, agricultural products and building materials. One of the main general goals is the establishing of a modern state, able to ensure security and to lead and monitor development.

To the main strategies belong the concentration on increasing productivity, selec-

tion of capital, intensive technology, commodity wise integration of the productive sectors, the use of incentives, the creating of a new formula for integration, and the cooperation between the socio-economic sectors: i.e., government, public, mixed and private sectors, and the Yemeni and Arab integration.

As a result of many targets for increasing the production of individual goods and services, of inter-relations between investments and increases of value added and of reflections of the growth in a sector on the other—particularly the effect of increased import on transport activity, and the effect of investments on growth in construction—and

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THE YEMEN ARAB REPUBLIC

Chairman of the Central Planning Organisation of Y.A.R.

In the light of the capability of the country to meet the material, financial and labour requirements, the investments of the Plan were estimated at YR 16.6 billions (1\$ = YR4.55). The average annual rate of growth of G.D.P. was estimated at 8.2% and of G.D.P. per capita at 6.1% since population rate of growth was estimated at about 1.9%.

The following table provides a picture of the actual and planned growth of G.D.P. and the structural changes.

The Fixed capital Formation is consisting of the following components:

1—Construction : YR6.2 Bill. or 38.6%

- 2—Buildings : YR4.6 Bill. or 28.9%
- 3—Machinery & Equipment : YR4.7 Bill. or 29.4%
- 4—Others : YR0.5 Bill. or 3.1%

As far as Capital Output Ratio is concerned It is estimated to increase gradually from 2.8/1 in the Base Year to 8.8/1 in the fifth year forming an average of 6.4/1 during the Plan period. This is due to concentration on capital intensive investments.

As the increase in stock is financed by the current Budgets, the Fixed Capital Formation will be financed as follows:

Furthermore, it is estimated that the total number of workers being about 1,166,000 in the Base Year, will increase by 101,000 in 1980/81, taking the external migration into consideration. This increase will be at about 1.7% annually. Thus the productivity measured at real G.D.P. per worker will increase from YR4,444 in the Base Year to YR6,054 in 1980/81, i.e., 36.2% or 6.4% per annum, thereof 4.9% in the agriculture, 6.4% in industry, and 6.0% in construction.

The Plan includes about 460 identified Projects in all Sectors, some of them are in the form of integrated or condensed programmes, i.e., the projects for crops development, dams and valleys development, integrated rural development, agro-industries, livestock development, the industrialization projects, rural water supply, water and sewerage and town planning, electrification, geophysical survey, ports development, roads network, vocational training, health care programmes, etc.

The list below includes the most important projects, and the expenditures planned for them during the five years (in YR Millions) :

1—Seeds and Crops developments	70.0
2—Six projects for extensional and research services	85.7
3—Six projects for integrated rural development	190.6
4—Ma'reb dam	105.0
5—Study of water resources and well's drilling	24.9
6—Development of six valleys in Tihama	477.4
7—Development of six other valleys	84.9
8—Small dams and maintenance of terraces	13.0
9—Livestock development	121.6
10—Four projects for chicken and eggs	97.6
11—Shrimps manufacturing	22.5
12—Three fishing ports	40.0
13—Minerals investigation	51.9
14—Salt manufacturing	10.7
15—Spinning factory in Hodeidah	47.5
16—Wool textile in Dhamar	66.0
17—Expansion of textile factory in Sana'a	65.0
18—Tricot factory in Dhamar	13.5
19—Expansion of Cement factory in Baghel	120.0
20—Cement factory in Amran	314.0
21—Industrial Estate	90.6
22—Central Printing Press	14.0
23—Paper factory	137.5
24—Fertilizer mixing factory	24.0
25—Rolling Mill and foundry	169.3
26—Sixty identified projects for light industries of the private sector	315.0
27—Central electricity generator	271.2
28—High tension transformer lines	171.7
29—Strengthening of Generation and Nets in main cities	200.4
30—Rural electrification projects	154.2
31—Water and sewerage of five cities	463.7
32—Rural water supply project (government)	190.5
33—Rural water supply project (cooperatives)	102.9
34—Central markets	15.0
35—Roads projects (government)	3,826.0
36—Roads projects (cooperatives)	615.3
37—Contractor company	50.0
38—Grain storage and bakeries	79.2
39—Petroleum storage	100.0
40—Petroleum pipelines	150.0
41—Telephone exchange	220.0
42—Telephone nets development	65.4



Lt. Col. Ahmed Hussein Al Ghoshmi, Chairman of the Command Council and Chief of the Staff of the Yemen Armed Forces.

Socio-economic Sectors/ Financial Resources	Government Sector	Existing public & mixed sector	Cooperative Sector	New mixed Sector	Private Sector	TOTAL
Government	1750	250	268	381	—	2649
Self-financing	25	375	411	225	73	1109
Citizens	25	25	402	900	4005	5357
Commercial Banks	—	50	—	90	110	250
Subtotal : Internal Resources	1800	700	1081	1596	4188	9365
External loans, committed ..	700	900	—	16	—	1616
External loans under negotiation ..	1100	300	—	123	—	1523
Foreign aids committed ..	790	10	—	3	—	803
Foreign Aids under negotiation ..	360	40	—	—	—	400
Loans & aids needed ..	650	650	20	205	100	1625
Equity	—	6	—	400	233	639
Subtotal : External Resources	3600	1906	20	747	333	6606
Grand Total ..	5400	2806	1101	2343	4521	15975

It is obvious that the external resources for the whole Plan are about 41.2% whereas for the government, public and existing mixed Sectors they will be about 68.8%.

This table shows that the government's obligations towards the projects will be YR2,649 Millions. Taking into consideration the repayment of foreign loans, the obligations will be YR2,750 Millions.

The Government plans to eliminate the deficit in the current expenditures in the first year and achieve a surplus, which will be used for development. This will amount to YR430 Millions during the Plan period. Cash grants amounting to YR1.8 Billion and capital resources, external cash loans, loans from the Monetary System, investment loans and the use of the resources, amounting to YR520 Millions all together, will cover the rest of the Government's obligations.

As far as foreign trade is concerned, the import of consumer goods will grow at

an annual average of 9.5%, for goods of intermediate consumption about 14.6% per annum, whereas the import of capital goods will grow at an annual average of 88.3%. This high rate is due to the small size of this category in the base year.

On the other hand, the export of goods which amounts to only YR55 Millions in the Base Year will grow at about 12.2% annually.

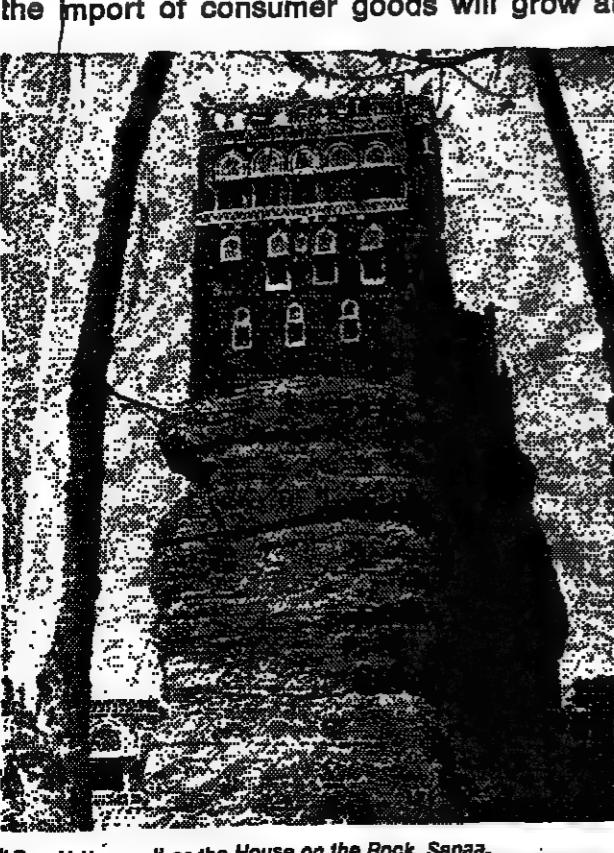
The foreign trade deficit is estimated at about YR18,148 Millions during the Plan period. A part of this deficit, i.e., about YR1,598 Millions, will be covered by the surplus of exchange of services with the rest of the world, but the main part of the deficit will be covered by the net private and public transfers, in cash and in kind, amounting to about YR13,830 Millions. Thus the deficit in the current account will be about YR2,720 Millions. The net external borrowing will meet this deficit and create a theoretical surplus in the balance of payment amounting to about YR1,358 Millions.

The Plan foresees that the public consumption will increase at an annual rate of 10%, whereas the consumption of households will increase gradually, starting by 4.1% in the Base Year reaching the rate of 7.3% in the fifth year, and making an average of 5.9%. Since the total final consumption in the Base Year is higher than the G.D.P., the saving from the Gross Domestic Product is, therefore, negative. It is planned that this concept of saving will be nil in the third year and starts to increase, so that the algebraic total of it during the Plan period will be nil also.

The net saving out of NDP will be nil in the last year of the Plan. On the other hand, the saving out of National resources, i.e., G.N.P. is planned to increase by an average rate of growth of 7.6% per annum, so that the share of final consumption from GNP decreases gradually from 71.1% in the first year to about 69.9% in the last year.

Finally, it is worth mentioning that the Government of the Yemen Arab Republic decided to organize a "Yemen Development Conference" in late November to discuss this plan. All international Organizations, Banks and Funds and some multinational companies will be invited to attend this conference.

These two pages have been prepared, contributed and paid for by the Ministry of Development and the Central Planning Organisation of the Yemen Arab Republic.



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by Kathleen Partridge

In a land as mountainous as

North Yemen, where three quarters of the population live in remote and scattered settlements of fewer than 250 people, one of the biggest problems of education is

"delivering" it.

Explaining some of the difficulties faced by his department, Dr Abdel Karim al-Kayani, the Minister of Education, told me: "Everything to do with education in Yemen can be regarded as a priority. More than 80 per cent of our people are still illiterate and out of a population of six million or so, only 300,000 children are receiving an elementary education."

The five-year plan allocates £140m to education—about 7 per cent of the total budget—and the Government hopes that this will at least provide a broad educational base on which to build. The programme is limited not only by financial resources but also by the chronic shortage of trained teachers in Yemen.

Already much has been achieved, compared with the dark days of the Imamate when only the sons of the rich received any education. Even that was very restricted, with the accent on Koranic instruction, for the umams believed—with reason—

that knowledge of the outside world would lead to discontent with the primitive and repressive conditions inside Yemen.

A few hand-picked young men were from time to time permitted to study abroad, mostly in military academies in Iraq and Egypt, while in the 1950s some Egyptian teachers were allowed into Yemen to set up a small number of secular schools. But it was not until after the 1962 revolution that schools were built in any numbers. Often provided by local subscriptions, they were more widespread in the south of the country, which was less affected by the seven-year civil war. Perhaps for this reason the level of literacy in the south is higher than in any other part of the country.

In the 1960s many more Yemenis went abroad for higher education, mainly to Arab countries or to the communist block. There are educational establishments, notably in the Soviet Union, which cater specially for students from developing countries who lack the normal minimum qualifications.

Their so-called degrees are hardly worth the paper

they are written on", one Western educationist told me, and I heard this view expressed a number of times in various contexts.

Others argue, however, that any level of skill is of value in a country with a desperate shortage of trained manpower.

After the revolution, the rulers of the newly proclaimed republic realized that education—from basic literacy through to specialized vocational training—was the key to the future development of their country. With the help of the Kuwait Fund a university was founded in Sana'a in the academic year 1970-71, staffed by Egyptian teachers, and a number of other educational institutions were set up with the help of Saudi Arabia, Egypt, China and other benefactors.

Educational thinking in Yemen has traditionally been deeply influenced by Egypt, and the syllabus taught in the schools is almost the same as the Egyptian.

Some observers feel that there is too

much emphasis on academic education for the needs of the country.

When the late President Hamdi came to power in

1974 he started a "correction movement" encompassing the whole of Yemen's development. A three-year plan was drawn up and this was followed by the present five-year plan. The Government hopes to increase the number of pupils in primary schools by 63 per cent by the end of the plan in 1981. The full primary course lasts six years and children begin at the age of six or seven.

Although education is theoretically free and available to boys and girls in co-educational schools, social and religious traditions have led to boys outnumbering girls in the classroom by 18 to one. In a country where child labour is taken for granted in shops, on farms and even in road-building, a high proportion of pupils of both sexes do not complete their primary studies, except among the middle classes.

The tax, or contribution

expected from parents towards books and other expenses in locally provided schools, sometimes inhibits the poorer families from sending their children to primary school. But on the whole parents seem to rate education highly and demand for schools and tea-

chers at present outstrips the Government's ability to provide them.

After primary school the next step up the educational ladder is the preparatory school, which pupils attend for three years. The Government hopes to increase the number of pupils in primary schools by 15 per cent during the period of the five-year plan. Next comes the secondary school, which also has a three-year course, and here the Government is aiming at an increase of 13 per cent in the number of pupils.

The Government is hoping for the biggest increase—297 per cent—in the relatively small number of students who graduate from elementary school each year.

Centres for specialized and vocational training are being set up in all the governorates and there should be at least 22 by the end of the plan in 1981, including teacher-training colleges. At present few elementary school teachers have any formal training.

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Rough road to slough medieval skin

by Peter Hopkirk

For centuries, locked away behind its mountain ramparts, Yemen remained as remote and isolated from the outside world as Tibet. The few Western travellers who managed to penetrate to its interior found a medieval backwater, cut off from all material progress and liberal thought, and ruled over by autocratic, often barbaric, imams.

Its inhabitants were—and still are today—fiercely independent, and more like Gorkhas than the Beduins of the Arabian peninsula. A Turkish general who once fought them declared admiringly: "All Europe could be conquered by such men."

Life continued with little change until 1962 when a group of Nasser-inspired young officers overthrew the last of the imams who had been on the throne just a week. Believed by the revolutionaries to be lying dead in the ruins of his palace, the Imam managed to escape, and fled the capital, San'a, for the mountains of the north.

The tribes there rallied to his cause, and immediately the country was plunged into a civil war which was to cost some 200,000 lives and to last more than seven years. Today he lives quietly in exile in Kent.

For years before the coup which toppled him, the country had been in the cruel grip of his father, Imam Ahmed, the most repressive of all Yemen's rulers. Public beheadings, the amputation of hands and feet, and the chaining of prisoners to the walls of their dungeons, were his method of maintaining order. The heads of those who had been executed were sometimes displayed on spikes on the walls of the capital and severed hands of thieves nailed up as a warning to others.

To keep the tribes of his kingdom passive he introduced a system of hostages under which the sons of sheikhs were held in his palace as a guarantee of good behaviour. When he went to Rome for medical treatment in 1959 he took some of these hostages with him. Villages suspected of harbouring agitators or too late.

nationalists were ruthlessly destroyed.

Even his own family was not exempt. At least two of his sons, it is said, were executed in their prison cells and one of his brothers executed. So concerned was he about his own safety that he had vital parts of tanks and other weapons belonging to his army removed and hidden in secret arsenals.

According to one authority he had large quantities of gold concealed in similar

caches, the slaves who carried it there being subsequently executed. His father, who seems to have been little better, although accounts vary, was finally machine-gunned to death. Imam Ahmed was therefore taking no risks. Even so there were a number of attempts on his life, including one in which he is known to have been struck by five bullets.

On another occasion he was held prisoner in his palace by rebels. According to one account—his own—he seized a Bren gun from one of his captors and shot his way to freedom. Another version is that he bribed his guards, and then when safely back on his throne he docked the amount from their meagre pay. In the event, to everybody's surprise, he died in his bed of natural causes, albeit just in time.

Young officers plotting his downfall

For already the young officers had been plotting his downfall for many months with the intention of replacing the country's ancient theocracy with a modern republic. Indeed it appears that there was more than one group of plotters, working of them within his own family.

When they struck, therefore, it was against his son, Imam Muhammad el-Badr, who as Crown Prince had tried to introduce reforms, including the freeing of slaves. However, these had immediately been reversed by his father on his return home from abroad. Even during his solitary week on the throne, he had begun to institute changes, but it was

Reporters from Western newspapers made their way from Saudi Arabia to the royalist cave headquarters, and soon the imagination of the world was caught by the romantic vision of a king deprived of his throne by the armed might of President Nasser fighting to recover it. A public relations consultant was hired by the royalists to help to promote their cause, and there was a streaming of foreign advisers and mercenaries in their ranks.

The republican cause was not helped in the eyes of the world by the Egyptians' use of gas against innocent best heads available.

On the night of September 26, 1962—today celebrated annually as Revolution Day—his palace in San'a was shelled by tanks which had encircled it. Next day the revolutionaries proclaimed the new Yemen Arab Republic. But their triumph was to be so short-lived. The young Imam escaped unhurt with four companions through a little-known gate in the palace wall and made his way secretly north.

The war that followed turned out to be much more than a contest between the royalists and the republicans for control of a little-known and unimportant country.

Quick to come to the support of the royalist cause were the Saudis, who viewed the conflict as a showdown between the conservative elements in the Arab world like themselves and those who, manipulated by Nasser, aimed to sweep them away.

On another occasion he was held prisoner in his palace by rebels. According to one account—his own—he seized a Bren gun from one of his captors and shot his way to freedom. Another version is that he bribed his guards, and then when safely back on his throne he docked the amount from their meagre pay. In the event, to everybody's surprise, he died in his bed of natural causes, albeit just in time.

Opposing sides were reconciled

Three years after both Saudi Arabia and Egypt had withdrawn their support, the opposing sides were reconciled. The Government which emerged was a coalition of moderate republicans and royalists, excluding the Imam and his family who went into exile in Britain.

In June, 1974, a 10-member military Command Council led by the late Lieutenant-Colonel Ibrahim el-Hamdi, seized power. Colonel el-Hamdi, after assuming the presidency, explained to the nation that the armed forces had taken over because they saw the country "advancing towards a sea of blood" meaning another civil war.

He promised that elections would be held and said that he would hand over "to anyone chosen by the people". At the time of his assassination, on the afternoon of October 11, no elections appeared in sight.

On that day, most Western observers in San'a agreed that in a country without any tradition of Western-style democratic government, power was probably in the best hands available.

villagers in 1963, 1966, and again in 1967 shortly before their evacuation of the country. One British reporter who reached the first village to be so attacked a full month afterwards reported

that he could hear the agonized coughing of the victims from some distance away. The use of gas by the Egyptians was confirmed by visitors one of the villages after it had been bombed by Russian-built aircraft flown by Egyptian pilots, although that was denied by Egypt.

Until the ceasefire came about in 1970 the war ebbed and flowed, marked by long periods of stalemate, attempts by the United States and others to negotiate a settlement, the departure of the Egyptians after their defeat in the June 1967 war, and an unsuccessful 70-day siege of San'a by the royalists.

A herd of camels in the arid Tihama, or lowlands.

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North Yemen has been called the last refuge of those who seek the Arabia of old. It is certainly true that on a peninsula where so much has been bulldozed into oblivion, this mountainous Arab state can still

offer the visitor unique architecture, medieval towns and villages which have hardly changed over the centuries and extraordinary natural beauty.

With its cool and fertile valleys, it has little in common with the desert lands

they occupy most of the rest of the Arabian Peninsula or, for that matter, anywhere else in the Middle East. In terms of scenery and flora it is more like a piece of East Africa transplanted bodily into Arabia.

To stand looking down upon the great Wadi Dar, a magnificent valley not far from San'a, is like finding a lost civilization. Ancient stone and mud villages climb up the mountainsides, at the feet of which spreads a rich carpet of gardens and smallholdings, perhaps the greatest and most peaceful scene anywhere in the Arab world.

Apart from the intrusion of the car, there is a handful of modern hotels and fairly good roads between its main centres, most of the country still belongs to the Middle Ages.

With the twentieth century hammering on the door, however, before too long North Yemen will surely look more like any other mountainous land.

Anyone anxious to see this beautiful country and its attractive people should not put off his visit too long, although the Government declares its intention of preserving as much as possible of the nation's tradition and architecture. Nor must he expect to find there the comforts available in some other Middle Eastern countries, or in neighbouring East Africa. In many respects North Yemen is still very primitive.

They usually arrive in small package groups, some 80 per cent of them from France, which is the pioneer of North Yemen tourism. Only a few hundred British tourists visit the country each year, despite the interesting shown in its way of life and flora by British scholars.

The small-scale tourism is explained partly by lack of hotels and other facilities, but also because the Government has not yet made any serious attempt to publicize the country's many attractions. As a result few travel agents have much idea about the country.

One British tour operator which takes occasional parties is Allen and Dunn of Soho Square, London. Its 18-day tour takes in San'a, Wadi Dar, Sana'a (in the north), Taiz, Marib—once the capital of the Queen of Sheba—and other spots.

Because of the high cost of everything (the Tourist Board calculates that the average visitor this year will have spent about \$70 a day) many prospective visitors may feel it wise to take a package tour, with most of their expenditure paid in advance.

Unless he gets about on local buses or "service" taxis—not that easy unless he has a smattering of Arabic—the visitor will be forced to hire a car or taxi. Depending on the age of the vehicle, this can cost anything up to £100 a day with driver. A new Mercedes taxi will have cost its owner about £10,000, an investment which has to be repaid, such as, botanists

Haven of traditionalism saved from oblivion

and ornithologists, who are used to roughing it a little. When visiting North Yemen, doctor about the advisability of having an injection since health care and sanitation are still at a somewhat primitive stage. The determined visitor should come well armed with basic medicines and a first-aid kit. Long stays in the outback will not be put off by the difficulties. North Yemen is a fascinating land with a considerable variety of flora and fauna, and a considerable variety of diseases. Hepatitis is not unknown, and visitors should consult their doctor about the advisability of having an injection since health care and sanitation are still at a somewhat primitive stage. The determined visitor should come well armed with basic medicines and a first-aid kit. Long stays in the outback will not be put off by the difficulties. North Yemen is a fascinating land with a considerable variety of flora and fauna, and a considerable variety of diseases. 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